



## News Release

### Heritage Centre Will Strengthen Inuit Culture

**IQALUIT, Nunavut (February 17, 2006)** – Nunavut is closer to bringing its history home with the announcement today that Iqaluit will be the site for the future Nunavut Heritage Centre.

The announcement was made by Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Nunavut Tunngavik President Paul Kaludjak and Inuit Heritage Trust President Luke Suluk.

“The Nunavut Heritage Centre will strengthen our cultural foundation by keeping us connected to our past and telling us about Inuit cultures as it lives and changes,” said Tapardjuk. “Having our own heritage centre will ensure that Inuit are involved in interpreting their history and culture through training and education programs.”

An extensive feasibility study that included a site options appraisal was conducted in 2002. In the spirit of Aajiqatigiinniq the Government of Nunavut, together with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Inuit Heritage Trust formed a Trilateral Working Group in 2004 to select a site and develop a financing strategy.

“At NTI’s Annual General Meeting last fall, our members passed a resolution calling for the Nunavut Heritage Centre to be located in Iqaluit. We are extremely proud today to support this decision. Nunavut urgently requires its own facility to allow Inuit to showcase and present their cultural treasures, reflecting the spirit and cultural legacy of Inuit,” said Kaludjak.

“The Nunavut Heritage Centre will allow Inuit Heritage Trust to carry the mandate stated in Article 33 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement to support, encourage and assist in conservation, maintenance, restoration and display of archaeological, ethnographic and archival materials in Nunavut,” said Suluk.

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