



## Backgrounder: Nunavut Heritage Centre

- In 2002 the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth commissioned Lord Cultural Resources Planning and Management Incorporated, specialists in cultural resource planning to conduct a feasibility study on establishing a heritage centre in Nunavut.
- The feasibility study included a site options appraisal and considered eight communities in Nunavut: Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Arviat, Cambridge Bay, Baker Lake, Igloolik, Pond Inlet, and Kugaruk. The communities were ranked according to scores based on 14 weighted criteria such as accessing existing resources and infrastructure, capital costs and operating costs
- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (Article 33) recognizes the urgent need to establish facilities in Nunavut for the management and conservation of Nunavut's archaeological heritage.
- In *Pinasuaqtavut 2004 – 2009* the Government of Nunavut identified the establishment of the Nunavut Heritage Centre as a priority.
- In the spirit of Aajiiqatigiiniq the GN along with NTI and the Inuit Heritage Trust created a Trilateral Working Group to consider site selection and a capital financing plan.
- Since 1999 the GN has spent \$1 million on a shared services agreement with the GNWT for the continued curation of GN heritage collections at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.
- The capital cost estimate for the heritage centre is \$55 million.
- The Government of Nunavut has demonstrated its commitment to preserving Nunavut's cultural legacy by committed \$10 million from the Northern Strategy to the Nunavut Heritage Centre project.
- All members of the Trilateral Working Group agreed with the decision to locate the Nunavut Heritage Centre in Iqaluit. This decision was reached through extensive consultation and consensus.
- Selecting a site that has long-term sustainability will encourage capital funding partners such as the Government of Canada and Nunavut Trust.