



News Release

Piqqusilirivvik Location Announced

IQALUIT, Nunavut (September 25, 2006) – Clyde River will be the site for the main campus of Piqqusilirivvik, the Nunavut Cultural School, following an announcement made by Premier Paul Okalik and Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth Louis Tapardjuk.

Premier Okalik and Minister Tapardjuk were joined at the announcement by Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. President Paul Kaludjak after notifying Uqqummiut MLA James Arreak, Clyde River Mayor Peter Paneak and the hamlet council that Clyder River was the chosen site.

The communities of Baker Lake and Igloolik will also serve as satellite campuses in the delivery of cultural programs, creating a greater diversity of programming and access for Nunavummiut. The government has committed \$10 million to the project which is consistent with its mandate to assist non-decentralized communities in Nunavut.

We are eager to make Piqqusilirivvik a reality for all Nunavummiut,” said Okalik. “Strengthening our culture and language is the shared goal of all members of the Nunavut legislature.”

The Government of Nunavut cabinet made the final decision following an open process earlier this year that allowed Nunavut communities to express their interest.

“The ability displayed by each community to host Piqqusilirivvik made this a difficult decision and I commend and thank each of them for submitting their proposals,” said Tapardjuk.

“We are very excited about being chosen as the site for Piqqusilirivvik,” said Arreak. “This decision will have a major impact on our community by bringing us economic development opportunities.”

N T I played an integral part of the planning and worked closely with Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and the Department of Education to examine options and select a site.

“We are pleased to celebrate with Clyde River on being chosen to play a central role in Piqqusilirivvik, and to celebrate the fundamental importance of Inuit culture, language and tradition in Nunavut,” said Kaludjak. “NTI believes that providing Inuit-specific education is essential to the success of Nunavut.”

A steering committee, which consists of representatives from the departments of CLEY and Education and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, will continue to develop the governance, curriculum and socio-economic aspects of the Piqqusilirivvik initiative. They will liaise closely with Clyde River, Baker Lake and Igloolik, to ensure that Piqqusilirivvik is delivered in a manner that will benefit the chosen communities and Nunavut.

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