

News Release

Groundbreaking Ceremony for Piqqusilirivvik

Clyde River, Nunavut (June 13, 2008) – Construction of Piqqusilirivvik, the Nunavut Cultural School, is one step closer to reality with the official groundbreaking ceremony for the project held today in Clyde River.

Culture, Language, Elders and Youth Minister Louis Tapardjuk and Premier Paul Okalik joined Uqqurmiut MLA James Arreak, Clyde River Mayor Andrew Iqalujuaq, elders and residents of Clyde River for this event.

"Students from Nunavut will attend Piqqusilirivvik to learn, share and take away a lifelong interest in maintaining their cultural values and experiences." said Minister Tapardjuk. "Not only will this be the home for programs, it will be the home for students as they learn many of the elements of land based knowledge." According to Minister Tapardjuk, this knowledge will consist of both practical skills that fit into and are appropriate for the environmental and social conditions. The Inuit way of doing including values, world views and social norms will play a huge role in program development and delivery.

"Piqqusilirivvik will help strengthen and foster Inuit culture and language," said Premier Okalik. "By working together, we are accomplishing great things in the preservation and transfer of knowledge from our elders to future generations."

Design of the facility is now underway with a major design workshop held earlier in the week in Clyde River. The design is expected to be finalized in time to ship construction material in summer of 2009 with completion of the facility by mid 2011.

Clyde River was chosen as the site for the main campus in fall 2006. The communities of Baker Lake and Igloolik will serve as satellite campuses in the delivery of cultural programs, creating a greater diversity of programming and access for Nunavummiut.

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