

News Release

Documentary *Staking the Claim* launched today at the Nunavut Legislative Assembly.

IQALUIT, Nunavut (June 27, 2008) – Today, the Department of Education, in conjunction with EnTheos Films, launched the documentary called *Staking the Claim*. This documentary is aimed to help Nunavummiut explore the process Canadian Inuit have gone through to regain control of their lives and destinies. It is designed to show students the links between the past and the challenges they face today, and how they can bring about change in their own lives.

The Nunavut Department of Education is in the process of developing curriculum to accompany the documentary. The intent of the curriculum is to provide students with the opportunity to learn about all Inuit land claims agreement. *Staking the Claim* is a set of three documentaries which investigates the Nunavut, Inuvialuit, Nunavik and Nunatsiavut land claims from the point of view of four recent graduates from Nunavut Sivuniksavut.

The *Staking the Claim* curriculum will consist of three documentaries on DVD, a teacher's guide covering 10 units of study and a student journal to allow personal reflection. These materials will be available for Nunavut grade 10 students this fall.

The Honourable Ed Picco, Minister of Education participated in the launch. "Staking the Claim is a terrifically articulated, concise and well narrated look at more than 30 years of struggle to obtain recent Land Claims for Inuit across the north" said Minister Picco. "The DVD and curriculum will be powerful tools that will help put the journey of Inuit self-determination into a more personal context."

Co-creators Kath Clarida Fry and Marianne Demmer of EnTheos Films state "Our hope is that Nunavummiut students will understand that Inuit have changed the face of our nation. It's a remarkable story; one that all Inuit should celebrate".

The production of *Staking the Claim* has been a partnership between EnTheos Films and Nunavut Sivuniksavut, with major support from the Department of Education, the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation, the federal Departments of Canadian Heritage and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Qiqiktani Inuit Association, Nunasi Corporation, as well as many others.

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