



# News Release

## New Funding for Artists Will Help Maintain Culture and Livelihoods

**IQALUIT, Nunavut (January 14, 2009)** - Minister of Economic Development & Transportation Peter Taptuna, announced today the *Arts & Crafts Development Program*, a new program providing financial support for the growth and development of the arts & crafts economic sector.

“Our arts & crafts strategy and this new implementation funding demonstrate the government’s increased commitment to this important part of our economy,” said Minister Taptuna. “At the same time, we are helping the artists who maintain our culture and traditions.”

The *Arts & Crafts Development Program* will provide \$425 thousand annually in additional financial support through two new funds: the *Sanannguaqti* Fund and the *Sanannguaqti Katujjiqatigiingit* Fund.

The two funds will provide support for activities including:

- the purchase of art materials, supplies and equipment
- business training for artists
- website development, promotion, marketing tools and training
- investments by artists in wholesale and retail
- workshops for artists

The new program is part of the implementation plan for the Department of Economic Development & Transportation’s *Sanaugait: A strategy for growth in Nunavut’s arts and crafts sector*.

“This new funding will help artists and the work they do to promote the culture of Nunavut,” Minister Taptuna said. “With this new support comes an opportunity for artists to do more of what they do best: create breathtaking works that capture the art buyer’s eye and at the same time provide income for families in Nunavut.”

Information about how to apply for support and application forms are available at [www.edt.gov.nu.ca](http://www.edt.gov.nu.ca). Artists can also call the department toll-free at 1-888-975-5999, or contact their Community Economic Development Officer in their communities, or the Advisor, Arts & Traditional Economy, at the Economic Development & Transportation office in their region.

-30-

### **For more information, contact:**

Matthew Illaszewicz

Manager, Communications, Economic Development & Transportation

☎ 867-975-7818

✉ [millaszewicz@gov.nu.ca](mailto:millaszewicz@gov.nu.ca)

🌐 [www.edt.gov.nu.ca](http://www.edt.gov.nu.ca)