



News Release

Official Opening of Piqqusilirivvik Facility

CLYDE RIVER, Nunavut (May 4, 2011) - Piqqusilirivvik opened its doors for the first time today in Clyde River. Piqqusilirivvik is the new Inuit Cultural Learning Facility that will play a vital role in the preservation and promotion of Inuit culture, values, language and heritage for future generations.

The Premier of Nunavut, Minister of Culture, Language Elders and Youth, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) President and other dignitaries joined the people of Clyde River to celebrate today's official opening.

"In the spirit of *Tamapta/CL^C: Building our future together*, I am very pleased to be here for the opening of the Piqqusilirivvik Cultural Learning Centre, a historic first for cultural education in Nunavut," said Premier Eva Aariak. "As Nunavut continues to grow, it is more important than ever to build our territory with a solid foundation in Inuit culture, and share and safeguard it for future generations."

"The opening of Piqqusilirivvik marks an important step in our commitment and dedication to the continued support and preservation of Inuit values, skills and knowledge," said Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth James Arreak. "Elders played a significant role in the establishment of this facility and they will play even a bigger role by teaching Inuit traditions in this facility."

The \$32.2 million project was jointly funded by the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut.

Clyde River was chosen as the site for the main campus in fall 2006. Construction of the 2,200 square meter facility began in September 2009 and was completed in January 2011. Satellite campuses are located in Baker Lake and Igloodik and are actively delivering cultural programs, creating a greater diversity of programming and access for Nunavummiut.

"NTI has been a proud partner in the development of Piqqusilirivvik with the Government of Nunavut," said NTI President Cathy Towtongie. "Without the hard work and dedication of Inuit from across the territory who have fought for Inuit culture and society, this day would not have been possible. I am very proud of this achievement and very excited about the positive impact Piqqusilirivvik will have on our ability to transmit Inuit knowledge to those who wish to learn."

