

Statement

For Immediate Release

## All inmates and staff are safe after two small fires at the Baffin Correctional Centre

November 14, 2012 IQALUIT, NU

Shortly after 10:00 p.m. on November 12, 2012, correctional staff at the Baffin Correctional Centre (BCC) was alerted to a small fire in the ceiling of the washroom in the main dormitory area. The Iqaluit Fire Department responded and correctional staff took the precaution of moving inmates into a safe area of the centre.

At 10:45 p.m., while fire crews were on scene, a second fire started in the gymnasium. Fire crews quickly extinguished the secondary fire, while BCC staff initiated fire evacuation contingency plans and moved inmates out of BCC and into secure custody outside of the building. The Iqaluit RCMP Detachment assisted in securing the perimeter of BCC and subsequently with the evacuation of the inmates to various locations.

By 2:30 a.m. the two small fires were contained and most of the building was cleared by the fire department for re-occupation. BCC staff returned inmates to dormitories.

Although the precise cause of the fire has yet to be determined it appears that arson was involved in both cases. The Corrections Division is assisting the RCMP and the local fire marshal with the investigation and details will be released as soon as they are available.

The Director of Corrections would like to acknowledge and thank every person who provided assistance in this situation, in particular the Iqaluit Fire Department, the RCMP, and correctional staff. The spirit of cooperation between all agencies involved resulted in no loss of life.



## Media Contact:

Stephen Mansell Director of Policy and Planning Department of Justice Tel: 867-975-6325 Email: smanselll@gov.nu.ca