

## **News Release**

## For Immediate Release

## **Arviat Arena Officially Opened**

ARVIAT, NU (January 28, 2013) – Residents of Arviat celebrated the official opening of their new ice surface at the Arviat Arena during the Jon Lindell Memorial Hockey Tournament this past weekend.

"Recreational infrastructure is important in building stronger, healthier communities across Nunavut. We hope this new ice surface will bring together residents, elders and youth to participate in recreational activities that encourage healthy, active lifestyles in their community," said Minister of Community and Government Services, Lorne Kusugak. "We're pleased that the ice surface was ready in time for the winter sports season and appreciate the community's patience during the completion of this project."

The annual Jon Lindell Memorial Hockey Tournament resumed in Arviat over the weekend after it was postponed last year to allow for the upgrades to the arena.

A new concrete slab with thermosiphon technology and a cooling and ventilation system were installed in the arena to replace the gravel base.

"These upgrades will now allow the community to have ice in the arena earlier each year and maintain the ice longer," said Mayor of Arviat, Bob Leonard. "The arena's new concrete slab will allow residents to participate in sports and recreational activities in the community year-round."

A final coating on the concrete surface will be applied next summer to maximize the lifespan of the ice surface. In total, \$2.5 million was invested in this project by the Government of Nunavut.

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## **Media Contact:**

Hillary Casey Communications Officer Department of Community and Government Services 867-975-5342 hcasey@gov.nu.ca