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Building Nunavut Together
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News Release

For Immediate Release

Elders' appreciation event at Makigiarvik

IQALUIT, Nunavut (December 4, 2015) – The Department of Justice held an event today in Iqaluit to acknowledge the contribution of Elders in the naming of Makigiarvik, Nunavut's new minimum security facility.

"I am thankful for the support of our Elders in this process, and believe that by working together and applying traditional knowledge, we can improve the services for our inmates in Nunavut," said Minister of Justice Paul Okalik. "It is important that we provide culturally-specific programming to help with healing and reintegration."

Makigiarvik, meaning to rise up, was chosen by a group of Elders from across Nunavut, to demonstrate that individuals can go through hard times and start over.

The 48-bed facility has been in operation since March 2015, and allows high and low-risk offenders to be separated. Makigiarvik has alleviated some of the overcrowding at the Baffin Correctional Centre (BCC) and allowed for an increase in programming. This facility will strengthen the programs offered to low-risk adult male offenders, including education and life skills training opportunities.

"This event represents what the facility is all about," said Minister Okalik. "A place where inmates, staff and Elders come together to learn from one another in a safe environment reflective of Inuit societal values."

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