News Release

For Immediate Release

Snow Block Carving comes back to Nunavut

IQALUIT, Nunavut (July 9, 2015) – Nunavut Deputy Premier Monica Ell and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. President Cathy Towtongie welcomed back an important symbol of the creation of Nunavut at a ceremony today at the Legislative Assembly.

“The rededication of the *Snow Block Carving* on Nunavut Day is fitting,” said Minister Ell. “After more than 25 years out of the territory, it comes back with a renewed sense of purpose, as we work to strengthen our territory’s infrastructure, economy and language.”

“The Tunngavik Federation of Nunavut (TFN) presented Minister Siddon with the carving to symbolize the work that was done to negotiate the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* and sign the agreement-in-principle. This carving is an important part of the story in the creation of Nunavut, and NTI is pleased that this piece of our history has come home,” said President Towtongie.

On April 30, 1990, the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut (TFN) signed the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement-in-Principle* with the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada in Igloolik.

At the time, TFN President Paul Quassa presented Indian Affairs Minister Tom Siddon with the *Snow Block Carving* by J. Kadluk in celebration of the signing. The carving represents the building of Nunavut, block by block. Minister Siddon was a signatory on the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* with President Quassa and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney on May 25, 1993.

The Snow Block Carving will be on display at Nunavut’s Legislative Assembly until Nunavut has its own heritage centre.

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