



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Nunavut Media Arts Centre Construction Begins**

*(June 26, 2014 - Iqaluit, Nunavut)*

The Inuit Broadcasting Corporation (IBC) is thrilled to announce today that construction of the Nunavut Media Arts Centre (NMAC) has now begun! IBC's building partner, Inuit-owned firm, NCC Development Limited is managing the Iqaluit construction project.



*Photo courtesy of Clarence Synard of NCC.*

“We have been working closely with NCC and Livingstone Architect to finalize design details in order to make sealift deadlines” stated IBC Chair, Madeleine d’Argencourt.

The construction cost estimate for the NMAC project amounts to \$4 Million. “I am really pleased that we have reached this milestone. NCC and our NMAC partners are very confident that this building will facilitate significant and new contributions to Inuit media arts, and Inuit language and culture over the decades to come by IBC and other groups,” commented Greg

Cayen, NCC Chief Executive Officer. “The building will also provide the opportunity to preserve and promote IBC’s unique and historic collection of 40 years of Inuit film and video gathered and produced by Inuit from an Inuit perspective, in the Inuit language,” stated Harry Flaherty, President & CEO, Qikiqtaaluk Corporation.

The Government of Nunavut’s Department of Economic Development and Transportation is supporting the media arts centre with a contribution of \$750,000 through its Strategic Investments Program.

“This funding demonstrates our commitment to support and develop Nunavut artists, which is an important priority of the Government of Nunavut’s mandate *Sivumut Abluqta*,” said George Kuksuk, Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. “I hope the Nunavut Media Arts Centre inspires more residents to promote our culture and people.”

“This pivotal contribution brings the Nunavut Government’s contribution to the NMAC to a total of \$1 Million, making the GN our strongest contributor to the NMAC to date. Also, we are very grateful to the Nunavut Community Economic Development Organization (NCEDO) and Kakivak Association for providing grant contributions during the planning phase,” said Ms. d’Argencourt.

In addition, “First Nations Bank of Canada (FNBC) - Canada’s first independent bank owned by Aboriginal people - is proud and honoured to take part in the project by providing mortgage financing through our Iqaluit Branch,” stated Paul Burlak, Regional Vice President, FNBC.

Construction, based on a revised design, is scheduled for completion this winter in anticipation of IBC’s move to the new building in early 2015. The IBC lot is on Inuit-owned land provided by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association.



Including the amounts mentioned above, IBC has raised \$5.5 Million and continues to seek financial support and public donations for the remaining \$3 Million to be used for current industry standard media equipment, training, furniture and other related costs.

As announced last September, IBC partnered with three Inuit-owned firms, Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, NCC Properties Limited and Atuqtuarvik Corporation to design, build and construct the NMAC. Through their new company, Sanavallianiq Corporation, the four partners will finance, own, operate and maintain the building at its Federal Road location (beside Polaris).

Donations can be made to the building fund at: [www.Sanavallianiq.ca](http://www.Sanavallianiq.ca) / [www.Building4Dreams.ca](http://www.Building4Dreams.ca).

**A sod turning ceremony at the NMAC construction site  
(beside Polaris on the Federal Road)  
will take place on Thursday, June 26 at 2:00 p.m.**

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**About Qikiqtaaluk Corporation**

Qikiqtaaluk Corporation is a wholly owned Inuit birthright corporation created by the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. With close to 30 years in business in Nunavut in most economic sectors of activity, QC aims to become a major contributor to all segments of the Nunavut economy. QC's purpose is to provide direct employment and financial opportunities to Inuit within and outside the Qikiqtani Region. By balancing tradition with innovation, QC strives to improve the social and economic well-being of all people in the Qikiqtani Region.

**About NCC Properties Limited**

Incorporated in 1999, NCC Properties Limited, as a subsidiary of the Inuit-owned NCC Investment Group Inc., offers commercial, residential and industrial space, built to standards of excellence by NCC, in 11 Nunavut Communities. Their mission is to keep their tenants warm, dry and well ventilated, 24/7. The NCC Investment Group Inc. was incorporated in 1996 to build, own and lease infrastructure required by the Government of Nunavut. Their shareholders are Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, Sakku Investments Corporation, Kitikmeot Corporation and Nunasi Corporation.

**About Atuqtuarvik Corporation**

Atuqtuarvik Corporation is an investment company that was created by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) and Nunavut Trust to help ensure direct Inuit participation in major economic opportunities. The corporation provides loans and equity investments to Inuit-owned businesses for the purpose of business start-ups, acquisitions and expansions. Since commencing operations in June 2000, Atuqtuarvik Corporation has supported the development of numerous business ventures throughout Nunavut in a variety of market sectors. Through its success in providing loan and equity investments to viable Inuit-owned businesses, the corporation is playing a leading role in building a strong and self-sustaining Nunavut economy.

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***In Iqaluit June 25-28:***

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