

Library and Archives Canada

*Documentary Heritage Communities Program (DHCP) Launch
2015-16 Funding Announcements*

with

The Honourable Mélanie Joly Minister of Canadian Heritage

Monday, Dec. 14, 2015 - 11:00 a.m.

Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington St., Ottawa

As delivered

Debbie Brisebois Speaking Notes

Good morning. First of all, on behalf of our board and staff, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude for the inclusion of the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation's project in today's announcement. I would like to acknowledge Catherine Carry, our project manager, and Manitok Thompson, who has begun the important work on this project.

Our project is entitled *Inuit Film and Video Archives – Archiving Activities*.

Since 1981, the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation, commonly known as IBC, has been producing video by, for and about Inuit and in the Inuit language. Our programs are currently broadcast on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network and on the web. A selection of some of the productions are also available in English.

In 2014-15, IBC established the Inuit Film and Video Archives in the new Nunavut Media Arts Centre in Nunavut's capital, Iqaluit. We just held the Grand Opening for this building on December 2 after almost a decade of planning and development.

The Inuit Film and Video Archives consists of IBC's unique and treasured videotape collection involving approximately 9000 hours. This material has captured the cultural, social and political development of Inuit since the mid-1970s. Its value is estimated at over \$60 million – however, its non-monetary value is quite frankly priceless.

In 2014-15, the physical infrastructure for the archives was developed and equipment installed, along with the preparation of a customized multi-media archivist training program. In addition, a host of archiving activities began in earnest, including: over 14,000 have been videotapes inventoried (8000 disposed and 6,000 retained and catalogued); 1300 tapes were digitized, bringing the total digitized to over 2500; and over 370 hours of video material were uploaded to the Internet for public viewing. And in July 2015, IBC hired a multi-media archivist trainee and began implementing the training program.

The 2015-16 Library and Archives contribution is significant as it will enable IBC to continue a number of its archiving activities, including:

- the inventory process of sorting videotapes in Igloolik and Ottawa for either discard or electronic cataloguing
- updating a number of existing catalogue records in Iqaluit and Ottawa

- migrating our catalogue database of videotape records to a new, more robust digital asset management system in Iqaluit
- additional digitizing of videotapes in Iqaluit and Ottawa
- more uploading of digital videos from the collection for public viewing on-line
- metadata, descriptions and key word entry for many existing, publicly accessible videos.

In this way, IBC will be able to ensure that a very important and unique part of Canada's memory and history is documented, preserved and made available – the original dialects of Inuit will remain alive because of IBC's recordings of elders and will enhance the culture and language of Inuit throughout the world.

Thank you.