



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

IHT RECOGNIZES ELDERS THROUGH THEIR ELDERS AWARD PROGRAM

(January 4, 2005 – Iqaluit, Nunavut) Inuit Heritage Trust President Luke Suluk announced today the recipients of our Elders Award Program. This program aims to recognize Elders and their contribution to archaeology and traditional place names.

Names of Elders who have worked and helped further the aims of IHT are put forth and then chosen by staff and board. This years recipients are:

Joseph and Martha Qilluniq (Taloyoak) – They hosted the six participants during the archaeological portion of the ‘Taloyoak Archaeological and Oral History Project’. Daily they acted as guides, shared their knowledge with us as well as went out of their way to be amazing hosts. Without their help this project could not have been possible.

Abraham Tagornak (Naujaat, Repulse Bay) - Abraham was a key Elder who was interviewed about Inuktitut place names. He’s also a language expert who sat in on other interviews to help with language issues as they related to place names and orthography. He showed a lot of stamina and dedication to this project.

Ashevak Palituq (Clyde River) – In his community he is recognized for his knowledge of the land and for its Inuktitut names. When place name interviews were being conducted, elders present often referred to him as someone who knew a lot and may have information to add.

Jacob Peterloosie (Pond Inlet) - His dedication to sharing Inuit culture with others through your dedication is inspiring to us and others around Nunavut. He participated in the Nunavut Quest Dog Sled Race from Pond Inlet to Hall Beach last year, which is an incredible feat. Though others younger than you covered more ground faster, you kept at it and never gave up. You showed that patience, determination and dedication is just as important as youthfulness and speed.

Joanassie Qappik (Pangnirtung) – He was given this award because he was recognized by other community members for your knowledge of the land, how the land has changed over time and for knowing its Inuktitut names. When he was helping out with place name interviews, he took extra time to make sure that everyone there understood the meanings of the names and importance of the information shared.

Sandy Akavak (Kimmirut) – He is being given this award because he is recognized by other community members for his knowledge of Inuktitut names and the features of the land connected to those names. When place name interviews were being conducted in the community, elders and others present used your name often as a person who would have information to add.

Inookie Atami (Iqaluit) - He made an amazing contribution to place names maps in the south Baffin area. As well, he is well respected for his hunting and travel skills and knowledge. He also made a big contribution to the archaeology work led by the Smithsonian in the mid 1990s when work was ongoing at the site where Frobisher landed 450 years ago.

Lucassie Nowdluk (Iqaluit) – Over the years he has made amazing contributions to place names maps in the south Baffin area. He is well respected for his knowledge of not only place names but the hunting and traveling associated with the land. He was also an equally active participant in the archaeology work led by the Smithsonian in the mid 1990s when work was ongoing at the site where Frobisher landed 450 years ago.

For further information:

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Our Mission: “The Inuit Heritage Trust is an Inuit organization established by and for the Inuit of Nunavut. The Trust is dedicated to the preservation, enrichment and protection of Inuit cultural heritage and identity embodied in Nunavut’s archaeological sites, ethnographic resources and traditional place names. The Trust’s activities are based on the principle of respect for the traditional knowledge and wisdom of our Elders.