North meets South
Heritage Workers from Nunavut visit area Museums

Sept. 15, 2008, Ottawa
Managers of museums, cultural centres, visitor centres, libraries and archives throughout Nunavut have gathered in Ottawa for 10 days to participate in an innovative heritage training program developed by Inuit Heritage Trust Inc. They have come from communities as far away as Arviat, Baker Lake, Cambridge Bay, Clyde River, Gjoa Haven, Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Kugluktuk, Pond Inlet, and Rankin Inlet to learn how to manage their facilities more effectively and to see Inuit and Northern collections in heritage institutions in the Ottawa region.

The experience has been moving for both participants and facilitators. Inuit visitors have found photographs and artifacts of their family members in national collections and the keepers of Inuit cultural objects in Ottawa institutions have benefited from the knowledge shared by participants. Tiffany Muckpah from Arviat had this to say about her visit: "This trip has been phenomenal because I discovered that my grandmother was a carver and her carvings are in the Canadian Museum of Civilization."

The program is comprised of four modules: Collections Management, Conservation, Research, and Exhibition Design. Participants have visited the National Gallery of Canada, the Canadian Conservation Institute, Canadian Museum of Civilisation, Library and Archives Canada, the Canadian Museum of Nature, and the Bytown Museum. They also visited Kitigan Zibi, a First Nations Cultural Education Centre in Maniwaki, Quebec.

This year's institute is the second half of a program begun in Iqaluit last spring where participants covered the first four modules: Introduction to Museums, Cultural and Heritage Centres, Museum Management, Interpretation, and Training Seasonal Workers.

The Inuit Heritage Trust is an Inuit organization established under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement in 1993 by and for the Inuit of Nunavut. 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, IHT's activities are based on the principle of respect for the traditional knowledge and wisdom of our Elders.

For further information contact: Ericka Chemko, Project Manager (867) 222-2556, Catherine Cole (780) 953-0369; and Wendy Molnar (204) 797-4741 culturalvisions@shaw.ca

Inuit Heritage Trust Inc. website: www.ihti.ca