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BACKGROUNDER

LABRADOR INUIT PARK IMPACTS AND BENEFITS AGREEMENT

The Labrador Inuit Park Impacts and Benefits Agreement, signed by Canada and the Labrador Inuit Association, formalizes the ongoing relationship between Parks Canada and Labrador Inuit. It sets out financial, cooperative management, and land use arrangements to address the potential impacts that the creation of a national park reserve may have for area Inuit, as well as the potential benefits.

This agreement is required under the provisions of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement. Negotiations between Parks Canada and the Labrador Inuit Association to conclude the Labrador Inuit Park Impacts and Benefits Agreement took approximately two years to complete.

Highlights of this Agreement include:

- Payment by Canada of \$1 million to the Nunatsiavut Government to identify and develop a plan for Labrador Inuit businesses to take advantage of economic opportunities associated with the national park reserve, and to create a fund to help Labrador Inuit and Labrador Inuit businesses to take advantage of those opportunities.
- Establishment of a cooperative management board to advise the federal Minister of the Environment on all matters related to the management of the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve of Canada. This five-member board will include equal representation by both Parks Canada and the Nunatsiavut Government, and will have an independent chair appointed by the two parties.
- Provisions for the ongoing use by Labrador Inuit of the national park reserve, including the removal of carving stone and the continued use of traditional seasonal campsites.

- Provisions to help Labrador Inuit take full advantage of the potential employment opportunities provided by the national park reserve.
- Recognition that the national park reserve will highlight the integral role that Labrador Inuit play in preserving the natural ecosystems of the area, and present the cultural history of not only the park reserve lands, but also of the larger region.