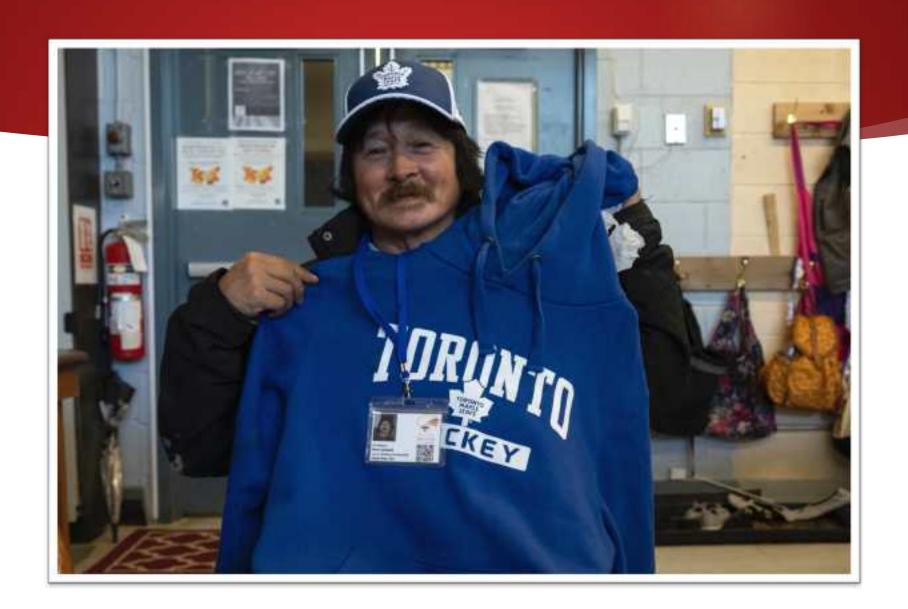


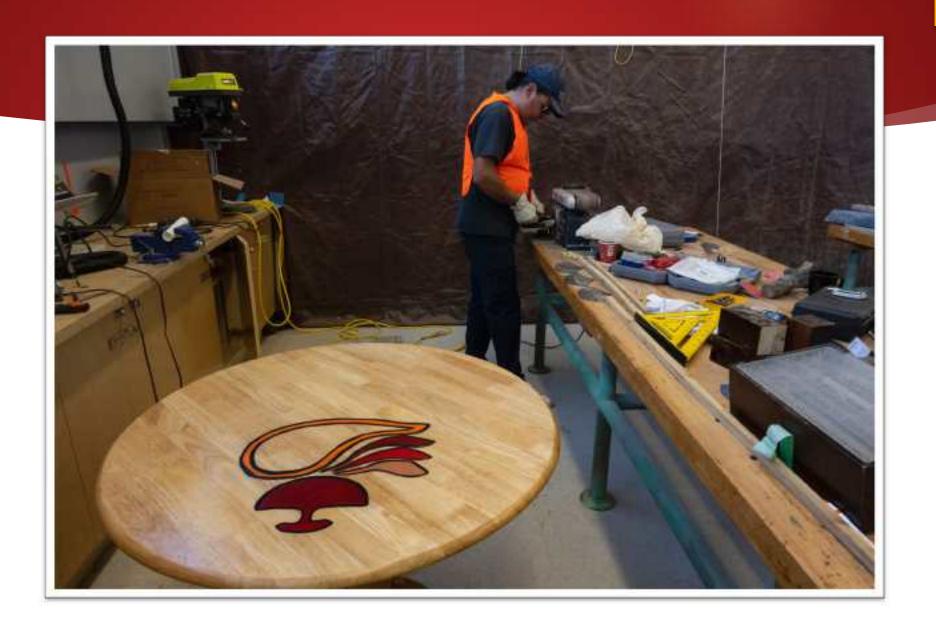
Δ52Δς βΠΓΝΟΥσωυς  $\Delta D^{o} \sigma^{b}$ Isaruit Conference for Inuit Creators



- ▶ Isaruit Inuit Arts partnered with the Ottawa Art Gallery at 26 Daly St in Ottawa to present the inaugural Pinguitijiit Isaruit Conference for Inuit Creators, Sept 30 – Oct 3, 2023.



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- Niore Iqalukjuak, a globally recognized Inuit Photographer travelled from Ikpiarjuk, Arctic Bay, NU to join the Pingutitjiit Conference





 $\Delta 52\Delta^{c}$   $\Gamma^{5b}$   $L^{5}$ 500°6C LD∆<sup>Sb</sup>CDσ%U The Grand Opening of Isaruit's Shop and Sewing Centre

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- The Conference opened at Isaruit's shop at 815 St. Laurent Blvd, by celebrating the Grand Opening of the newly established Isaruit Workshop and Sewing Shops.



- Isaruit creators like Ruben Komangapik pictured here worked up to the minute to prepare for the opening and demonstrated shop machines and techniques to the crowd who came to celebrate Isaruit's Opening.



- Sept 30<sup>th</sup>, National Day of Reconciliation, was chosen for the Grand Opening of the Shop and the Pingutitijiit Conference. Isaruit does Reconciliation we do not just talk about it. We wore our orange shirts on Sept 29<sup>th</sup> to warm up for the 30<sup>th</sup>.



- ▶ Jeannie Manning (far right), Deborah tagoonak (centre left) and Johnny Takowgak, (far left) Isaruit's translators for the Conference, held a Ottawa Interpreters and Translators Word Artists' conference, the morning of Sept 30<sup>th</sup>.



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- Pingutitijiit Conference was guided by John Houston (I.), Isaruit's Inuit Art Consultant and Ruben Komangapik, Vice-Chair and M.C. of the conference.



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- Ree Brennin, an arts and science worker, joined her husband John Houston and helped with the organization of the Conference site.



- Isaruit believes in sharing Inuit knowledge of today and yesterday, to carve out the future, and all events are intergenerational.



- Isaruit handed out pre-made ID cards with each participant's QR code printed if they were Isaruit members with an Artist's Profile published on Isaruit's website. New brochures were published for the event.



- Many from the Ottawa Inuit community joined in the celebration of Isaruit's Grand Opening with food and festivities.



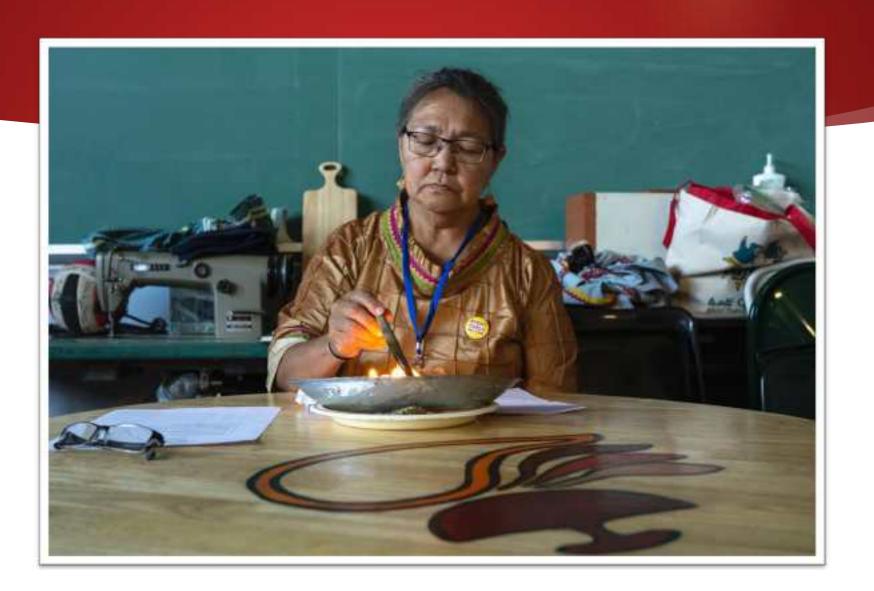
- $\blacktriangleright$   $\Delta$ 50  $\Delta$ 50
- All Isaruit workers wore kapitaks custom designed by the sewing program instructors



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- Beverly Illauq, Coordinator, and Jushua Illauq Elders Consultant for Isaruit greet coordinators from other programs located with Israruit at the Rideau Rockcliffe Hub community centre in Vanier.



- Martha Flaherty, left, one of the founders of Isaruit is still engaged with the development of Isaruit and attended the Conference.



- Aigah Attagutsiak, another foundress of Isaruit, lit a qulliq at the Grand Opening ceremonies



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- Ruben Komangapik spoke to the unique position of Isaruit as the only national Inuit creators' association and as an Ottawa organization with a fully Inuit staff.



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- Elder Instructors who inform Isaruit staff of Inuit traditions, are greatly valued by Isaruit: Elisapee Burmingham, left, and Susie Etok Kettler, right.



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  ho^{c}, \ \Lambda \Gamma \Delta^{c} \Gamma^{c} \Gamma^{c} \Lambda^{c} \Gamma^{c} \Gamma^{c}$
- Beverly Illauq, a founding member of Isaruit, telling a brief history of Isaruit



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- Martha Flaherty talked about the importance of Inuit coming together to talk, work, share and eat together



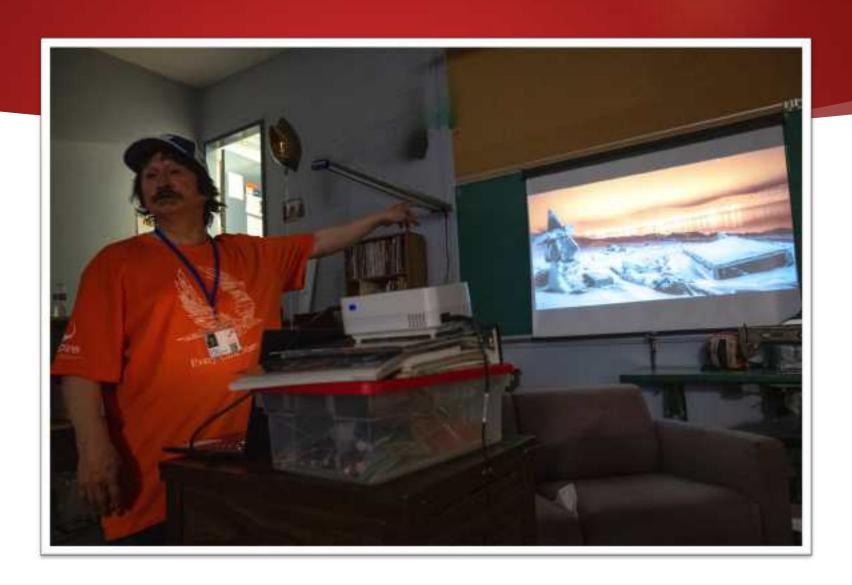
- σηθηθιστούς Λωσλώ ΣΕΠΟΣΘΕ Συθος Ασρος Αργος Αργος Αργος Αργος Αργος Αργος Αργος Αργος Αργος Ασρος.
- Feasting is an important part of cultural retention and grounding and celebration for Inuit creators when they get together. Reconseal Inuksiutik company is a new Inuit initiative that collaborates with Isaruit to provide southern seal meat and other country foods.



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- Sharing food has always been a focal point for Inuit community building.



- Digital technology made the Pingutitijiit Conference possible



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- "The Naked Truth" was the theme of Day One of the Pingutitijiit Conference. Niore Iqalukjuak exposes some of the truth of *Inuit Nunaga* with his spectacular photos



- Niore shared his development as an internationally respected photographer



Δς Δος 1 "ΔοΔς ακυρος" October 1, "What Inuit are Good At"



- On Saturday, October 1, Isaruit moved the conference venue to the Ottawa Art Gallery, where sewing worker, Asenath Kannutaq, lit and explained the significance of, a *qulliq*



- An Inuk youth helps Asenath with tech challenges. During the course of the conference, technical glitches proved to be very challenging and this was identified as a growing edge for Isaruit for hybrid or vitual events going forward.



► Ruben Komangapik's comments underlined the title of Day 2: "What Inuit are good at". He introduced the two speakers, both of whom have a high public profile in Canadian media: John Houston an older main stream man who has made promoting Inuit art his life's work, and Aliqa Illauq, a younger Inuk woman who advocates for Inuit to take back their voice



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- ► John Houston spoke of his father's, James Houston's, legacy as the 'founder' of the modern Inuit art scene.



- ► He underscored the "genius" of Inuit creators, and talked about the pre-historic Inuit creations, and how they have given rise to today's Inuit Art scene



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- Conference participants found John's presentation very confirming of the theme of 'genius' in Inuit creations, and life, even still today.





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Showing artifacts from the historical Inuit art period. The ivory boat depicting a whaler's' boat, dated 1200 B.C showed how long Inuit have been creating 'art'. The stone caribou carving being the 'ahaa' moment of John's father's career that led to decades of promoting Inuit art himself, and his son, John, after him.



- Theresie Tungilik from the GN Economic Development office in Rankin, thoughtfully examines the ivory boat John's Dad collected



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An ivory fox trap is an example of how Inuit replicated real objects that the whaler's commissioned. If the whaler's did not approve of a work, it would be destroyed in front of the artists, and nothing would be traded. This shows the power of the historic tension between the main stream collectors and the resilience – and brilliance – of Inuit creators.







- The translators reported that the conference was one of the most stimulating events they had ever translated.



Aliqa Illauq thanked John for the knowledge of the Inuit art world he had shared and used the information to start her own discussion of "What Inuit are good at" and how that must be empowering to Inuit generations of creators going forward.





Aliqa spoke of how Inuit genius and creations have not only helped Inuit survive throughout many challenges and traumas up to today, but also how Inuit genius continues to make Inuit artists thrive going forward.



▶ The two Rubens, David Ruben Piqtoukuen from Paulutuk the western NWT and Ruben Komangapik from Mittimatalik, Nunavut, both 'successful' and prolific artists compared notes in terms of developing their creative abilities and work, and having to constantly evolve and inform the public about Inuit culture and traditions.



- ▶ With a successful 50 year career in Inuit art behind him, David had a lot of experiences and wisdom to share with the other Inuit artists attending the conference.



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► His treatment of shamanism, started a conversation about not being afraid to show subjects that are of a spiritual nature in the Inuit culture, because they are an important part of Inuit traditions, and are needed to keep the cultural perspective strong.



- All of the presenters, all of whom were Inuit creators or arts workers, were presented with a gift of useful conference memorabilia, like this T-shirt.



David Ruben Piqtoukun really appreciated talking with Isaruit's Elder and artists, Jushua Illauq, and John Houston our artists consultant. They were grateful for the conference providing an opportunity to see each other, and talk together.



▶ October 1, Saturday afternoon, in keeping with the theme, What Inuit are Good At", Theresie Tungilik, a member of CARFAC, the Canadian Artists Representation organization, gave an insightful session on copyright and royalties as they affect Inuit creators.



Theresie Tungilik's presentation produced some thought-provoking discussion and sharing of experiences that Inuit artists have had when copyright of their creations was broken.



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Although technical glitches prevailed throughout the conference, Isaruit youth tech support, Aija Komangapik, along with professional photographer and Reconseal Inuksiuti business owner, Yoanis Menge, were able to record each session with their phones, and cameras.



- Aija, an award winning young Inuit artist, designed the logo for the Pingutitijiit conference.



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Feeding the 35 people who attended the conference each day required a team of Isaruit workers under the leadership of Moe Kunuk, from Tungasuvvingat Inuit to work full time behind the scenes.



All agreed the meals of Inuit dishes and sea food were excellent! Qasigiak (grey seal meat), and muktak and fish were provided by Reconseal Inuksiuti and supplemented with a shipment of fresh seafood from the wharves in Nova Scotia near John Houston's home.



Saturday evening's entertainment was to be the screening of Ruben Komangapik's most recent film. However, tech difficulties resulted in Ruben showing slides and a music video of his music group, SLAYVZ, sponsored by MICH, York University.



- ... and a video made by the Inu Broadcasting Corportation under "Kaujisaut"



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October 2,

"Survival"



Sunday, October 2, the theme of the conference was "Survival". Jushua Illauq, one of the elders consultants working with Isaruit artists, spoke (entirely in Inuktitut, as did most speakers) about the elements of Traditional Inuit survival, and how they relate to the modern day experiences of Inuit.



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- It's so important to bring forward knowledge from the past to inform the present we are living and the future





"It is very important that Isaruit is doing Its work of giving Inuit a place and a Community to allow Inuit elders to inform the Inuit creating things there about the deep Roots of Inuit culture and traditions, and especially to make and to show the things Inuit have created and used and developed for a long time.

The Artists' Elders' Consultations on Tuesdays Have been a really good way to do this, by Using the things we have now, like digital Technology, to help set the way for Inuit and all people for the future. "



"Responding to Jushua's comments, Ruben Komangapik is describing how Inuit creators Are pivotal in helping Inuit individuals and And communites alive. Art is what keeps Cultural Tradtions alive."



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   Δ\_<sup>b</sup>Π<sup>b</sup>γL<sup>c</sup>γΠ<sup>b</sup>.
- An art market was held at the Ottawa Art Gallery on Sunday afternoon for Inuit artists to show and sell their work.



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- With few artists selling items, and few purchases, Isaruit learned that it must advertise such events much more widely.



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- But for the public who came to join the artists, it was a very intimate and informative time, with lots of opportunity to learn about art pieces at hand. This underscored Isaruit's public educational drive.



























- Visitors to the OAG during the conference included several Inuit couples and families. Friednships were renewed and contacts made for Isaruit going forward.





- The Inuit food served predictably created instant connections between the cultures of Ottawa people who came by on OAG open hours on Sunday.







- Sunday evening entertainment was Inuit games, with Inuit families and individuals who came to the OAG, with Jushua Illauq hosting. Lots of incidental art was produced.



- ► ΔΥΡΔ<sup>C</sup> ϤϷϹ<sup>C</sup>ΥͰ<sup>δ</sup>υ<sup>C</sup> α\_σ<sup>C</sup>ϷϧϲϷ<sup>Sδ</sup> α<sup>C</sup>CϤ ԿϹ<sup>G</sup>ΒΡΥϤ<sup>G</sup>Ο<sup>C</sup>ΥΡ<sup>L</sup>L<sup>δ</sup>υ<sup>G</sup> "Δω<sup>C</sup>ΠΟ<sup>C</sup>" Λ<sup>δ</sup>δυασα.
- Isaruit's Coordinator had a tough time choosing the winner of the 'Draw the essence of "Inuit" challenge.









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- Of course at an Inuit artists' conference, sewing had to be one of the games. 'A good time was had by all.'



Δ52Δ° 4°)< 3 arcinsb" October 3, "Inuit in Time and Place"



- Inuit elder who has lived in Ottawa for 20 years, Meeka Kakudluk, from Qiqqiqtajjuak, spoke on the final day of the conference about "Inuit in Time and Place" in terms of being an Inuit creator living in the

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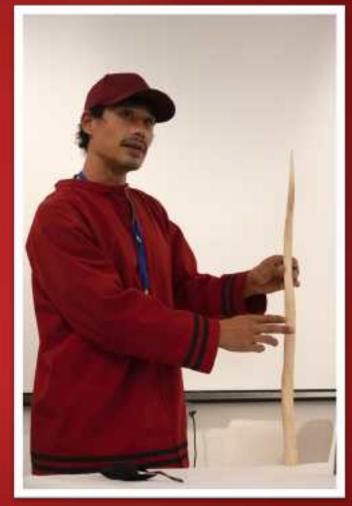
"It is so special to be at this conference with One person, Johnny Takowgak, whom I haven't Seen since when we were at residential school, At Churchill Vocational Centre. Let's talk about how Inuit are now in a different time and place, And what it means to live well as Inuit in this day and age. We have been resilient since the beginning. "



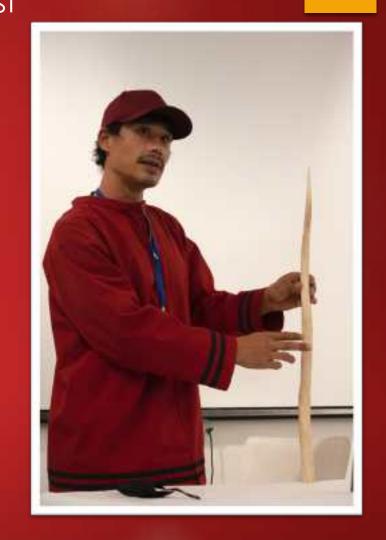
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Ben Illaug's presentation, immediately following Meeka's, gave the perspective of an Iniuk youth who had been trained by his father, Jushua Illaug, to 'make it work' despite the fact that all but one of his peers have died by suicide. It was his education from his elders who taught him to ground himself in Inuit values and beliefs, to go forward, who have saved his life.

" $\Delta\dot{D}^{c}$ "  $\Delta\dot{C}^{c}$ "  $\Delta\dot{D}^{c}$   $\Delta\dot{D}^{c}$ ΔΕΙΔΙΟΡίζο Δ΄ ΕΔ΄ ΡΘίρος  $400^{6}$  $\Delta\dot{\omega}^c$   $\Delta^c$   $\Delta^c$   $\Delta^c$   $\Delta^c$   $\Delta^c$   $\Delta^c$   $\Delta^c$ OPOCOS OF ACPSO SPONDE  $\Lambda$   $\mathcal{C}^{\circ}$   $\mathcal{C}$   $\mathcal{C}$  VYLYS DOC VSPOYCOG σοΔο ΡισΕΔοσο σσύλληση Δοτροσίος δερου Δεροσίος συδίος DSΔ°ασιβΥΡΟΔιβρίθη LC Δόρισ.



As Inuit, the "tree of life" teaching Passed on by First Nations is not as Relevant for us Inuit. Instead, I like to think of our lives as a tusk of a narwhale, starting from something big, that is the root of our traditional Inuit culture, to grow forward into the future. Yes, there are twists and turns, but it is those twists that make it stronger and if the foundation is there, that is the full understanding of Inuit culture, then we can go forward growing into the future. The more twists, like for a female narwhal's tusk, the more one is intertwined with the family. Whereas the male needs to be more straight forward in their approach to life."





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- ▶ Jushua Illauq, Ben Illauq's father, also spoke to how Inuit are so adaptable to the environment at hand, whether in the nature or in a city. His deep insights into Inuit culture and language, learned as a childfrom his grandmother are clearly still the best guides for living today.



- Inuit artists at work at Pingutitijiit Conference







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- The conference attendees, all of whom are Inuit creators/ artists found the conversation about "Inuit and Time and Place" to be life-giving.



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- Isaruit Inuit Arts then held a Plenary Meeting of Inuit Artists attending the conference to discuss steps going forward. Several Recommendations were made.



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- Making plans for the second Pingutitijiit Conference in 2023.











## $\Lambda^{\circ}$ UOCYŻC BULĻILC IGHC $+\Delta^{\circ}$ DCDIDC...

The Pingutitijiit Conference ended with expressions of *Thanks*.

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- >  $\sigma$ Λ $\dot{C}$ <sup>C</sup> $\Delta$ <sup>C</sup>
- ► And gifts made by Isaruit creators .