



HAMLET OF PANGNIRTUNG / HLEL <σ>< / PANGNIRTUNG, N.W.T., POSTAL CODE X0A 0R0

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. - 23 - 89 (2) Tabled on OCT 25 1989

### Fax Transmittal Sheet

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Date: October 25, 1989

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Number of Copies Sent: Cover + 3 Pages

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**PANGNIRTUNG - SMALL CRAFTS HARBOUR**

On August 31, 1989 a special meeting was held consisting of the Hamlet Council and representatives of the Hunters and Trappers Association and Cumberland Sound Fisheries Limited. The group agreed that a small crafts harbour for Pangnirtung should be located in the existing dredged channel at the community's main beach. This would be most economical because of the dredging that has occurred there and take advantage of the central location within the community. We believe construction of the harbour could be completed in three years.

**Purpose of Harbour**

Pangnirtung is growing in size and population. Growth is also occurring in the commercial fishery, tourism and recreation and the travel industry. Commercial fishing and tourism are important sources of income in this community other than government services and programs. For the safety of hunters, tourists, fishermen and other people from this community who venture out on the land via water, a small crafts harbour would improve the response time and effectiveness of search and rescue.

For the past four years the marine resources in Cumberland Sound have been under resource assessment. This has resulted in commercial quotas for winter turbot and summer scallops and test fisheries in summer turbot, shrimp and cod. Commercial fisheries will continue to grow, but are handicapped by the lack of transportation facilities. Presently the scallop and char fisheries are hampered by the lack of harbour facilities in Pangnirtung.

**Tourism**

Tourism operators and tourists depend on adequate transportation facilities for their boating excursions from Pangnirtung. Because of the vast range of tides and the size of tidal flats at Pangnirtung, it is difficult to give our visitors the quality of service that we wish to provide them and that they expect. This community has become more economically independent and socially healthier because of tourism activities. The tourism industry exists in Pangnirtung and is still growing because of Auyuittuq National Park Reserve, Kekerten Historic Park and three sportfishing camps. Tourism is handicapped because of poor existing harbour facilities which limit our ability to keep pace with growth.

**Travel and Recreation**

The people of Pangnirtung are mostly aboriginal people. Inuit today continue to hunt and fish in their traditional hunting and

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fishing grounds and water. During boating season most Inuit return to their tradition and outpost camps. Even with high prices of gas, oil, boats and motors, Inuit continue to travel during boating season. This demonstrates the importance of being on the land and a definite need for better harbour facilities.

### Search and Rescue

Because of growing activities in the commercial fishery, the tourism industry and recreation travel there is a need for better access to water by search and rescue teams. When people are in danger there needs to be immediate response. This is not presently possible because response is dependent on tides. A small crafts harbour is essential for this very special purpose.

### History

The people of Pangnirtung have strong and healthy roots in the history of the commercial hunting of animals. Our ancestors started commercial hunting for bowhead whales with white people over 100 years ago. Today the people of Pangnirtung are more active than ever before by striving to succeed in commercial fishing and tourism operations.

The people of Pangnirtung have hunted commercially for the beluga whale for oil and muktuk, and for the seal and fur industries. We have adapted socially and economically during these times of change. At the beginning of the 1980s the seal and fur industry collapsed because of the lobby of the animal rights groups. Again the people of Pangnirtung started looking for new ways to make incomes. The majority of hunters and trappers had difficulty and struggled to find new jobs. The crime rate went up - there was social instability and unrest. During that time most people of Pangnirtung depended on government services, welfare and social assistance programs.

Today the crime rate is equal to the crime rate of 7 years ago when seal and fur markets were strong and healthy. This is due to the development of commercial fishing and tourism in our community. Today there are organizations established within our community to promote the commercial fishery and tourism industries. These organizations and associated businesses are doing their best to promote these new industries. A small crafts harbour would further improve and promote these industries in Pangnirtung.

### Consultation and Planning of Small Crafts Harbour

The Hamlet Council of Pangnirtung believes that a small crafts harbour is necessary for continued economic growth in Pangnirtung. They would make a commitment to joint consultation

and planning by forming a committee during the development and construction of a harbour. It would consist of representatives from organizations and groups in Pangnirtung that have an interest in small crafts harbour facilities.

The Hamlet Council would co-operate and work with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans during the development and construction of such a harbour. There is adequate heavy equipment in this community to construct such a facility. The Hamlet would be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the ramp and floating facility.

Prepared by  
Mayor Johnny Mike  
September 4, 1989