

Elder Piita Irniq in Edmonton to Build an Inuksuk for TELUS World of Science – Edmonton

WHAT: Media are invited to TELUS World of Science – Edmonton for a special ceremony to welcome Elder Piita Irniq to Edmonton and the science centre.

The week will start with a smudge and prayer ceremony conducted by Elder Gilman Cardinal on Monday, May 23, in preparation for the building of an inuksuk in the *Arctic Journey Exhibition* at TELUS World of Science – Edmonton.

After the ceremony, tea and Bannock will be served.

The inuksuk build is expected to be completed by May 28, and media will be invited to view the final build with details to come next week.

WHEN: **Monday, May 23, 2022**
8:45 a.m. Check-in
9:00 a.m. Welcome Ceremony and interview opportunities

WHERE: TELUS World of Science – Edmonton Lobby
11211 142 St NW, Edmonton, AB

WHO: The following people will be available for interviews:

- Elder Piita Irniq
- Elder Gilman Cardinal
- Alan Nursall, President & CEO, TELUS World of Science – Edmonton

WHY: Recognizing the value of the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives and traditional ways of knowing in the new *Arctic Journey* exhibition, TELUS World of Science – Edmonton is honoured to welcome Elder Piita Irniq to Edmonton for the building of an inuksuk inside the future *Arctic Journey* gallery.

Elder Irniq will be constructing a niungvaliruluk, a window-shaped, directional inuksuk meant to point towards a place of significance. Like all inuksuit (plural), the one in the gallery represents an important element of Inuit culture, signifying the knowledge of the Arctic carried by generations of Inuit.

Inuksuit come in many different forms that serve different purposes. Some are used as landscape markers to guide Inuit travellers towards hunting grounds or fishing spots, while others hold spiritual significance passing down Inuit cultural teachings across generations.

HOW: Any media interested are asked to RSVP by emailing Brett Nestman at bnestman@twose.ca by noon on May 20, 2022.

Media contact:
Brett Nestman
Coordinator, Marketing & Communications

C: 780-999-8893
bnestman@twose.ca

About TELUS World of Science – Edmonton

TELUS World of Science – Edmonton’s mission is to: Ignite curiosity. Inspire discovery. Celebrate science. Change lives. We are the destination to engage Albertans’ hearts and minds in science. The Edmonton Space & Science Foundation is a non-profit organization that operates TELUS World of Science – Edmonton.

About Elder Piita Irniq

Elder Piita Irniq was born in an igloo at a hunting camp in 1947 at Lyon Inlet near Repulse Bay, Northwest Territories (now known as Naujaat, Nunavut). As a young boy he attended a residential school in Chesterfield Inlet. Elder Irniq is a long-time Northern politician, a former Commissioner of Nunavut, and an Inuit cultural teacher. He is also an inuksuk builder who has built inuksuit in many countries around the world. He presently lives with his family in Ottawa, Ontario.