



THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE  
OF THE CARIBOO

KAMLOOPS, BRITISH COLUMBIA

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### **Inuit Leader To Visit The University College of the Cariboo (UCC)**

KAMLOOPS--Jose Kusugak, President of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI), the organization acting on behalf of the Inuit people in creating the new territory of Nunavut, and one of the prime negotiators of that land claim, will be at UCC February 5 to speak about this important event in Canadian history.

On April 1, 1999, the eastern half of the Northwest Territories will become the new Territory of Nunavut. Nunavut, meaning "our land" in Inuktitut, is the ancestral home of the Inuit people. Establishment of this new territory, which encompasses one-fifth of Canada's total land mass, marks the final step in a long trek toward self-government for the Inuk, a struggle that has spanned decades and attracted international attention. The Inuit, who now number about 27,000, eagerly await the conclusion of Canada's largest but least-known land claim settlement.

Mr. Kusugak's lecture will focus on a discussion of the political process leading up to the settlement, noting past obstacles and future challenges. Central to his message is the assertion that the Nunavut Land Claim agreement is positive for all of Canada:

"The creation of Nunavut is helping to build the future of Canada, both culturally and geographically. Nunavut represents a vision for the next century as much as for this one. Nunavut is good for Canada, not just Northerners and not just Inuit, but all people who want to see our country grow and prosper. This is the message that needs to be given and to be heard."

A customary welcome will be extended by regional First Nations dignitaries before the lecture. Chief Arthur Manuel, Chairman of the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council will welcome him to the Shuswap Nation, and Chief Manny Jules will extend a traditional welcome to the Kamloops Territory.

Mr. Kusugak's presentation, sponsored by the UCC Human Rights Committee, the Office of the UCC Dean of Arts, and the UCC Canadian Studies program, will be held at **12:30 pm on Friday, February 5, in the Alumni Theatre, situated in the Clocktower Building** on UCC's Kamloops campus, located at 900 McGill Road. Visitors are welcome and admission is free.

For more information, please contact Brigitta O'Regan at 372-8258 or 371-5768 or Ginny Ratsoy at 828-5238.