

Stayin’ alive with high-priced hip hop

Ottawa, Iqaluit fight suicide, crime in \$400,000 splurge

CHRIS WINDEYER

Ottawa and Iqaluit are pouring \$400,000 into a program that aims to use hip hop as a way to promote health, reduce crime and prevent suicide.

The federal government is adding nearly \$200,000 to the same amount that’s already been spent bringing Blueprint For Life, the Ottawa-based organization that fuses hip hop music, breakdancing and social work, to Nunavut com-

munities.

More of those workshops are set for the new year, and officials also plan an “Arctic hip hop leadership summit” for the Baffin region in March.

According to Leona Aglukkaq, Nunavut’s MP and federal health minister, the workshops will provide information about healthy eating and exercise through kits that will be distributed to 41 schools throughout Nunavut.

It’s a way to compete

with video games and television, Aglukkaq said.

“There are many things standing the way of keeping kids physically active: extreme weather conditions that make outdoor physical activity particularly tough and lack of facilities and equipment for healthy indoor activities,” she said at a news conference Dec. 12.

Premier Eva Aariak said while it might seem strange for governments to spend money on hip hop workshops, the results from Blueprint For Life, and Clyde River’s Ilisaqsivik Society, who have championed the workshops there, speak for

themselves.

“Hip hop reaches out to youth, including youth at risk, and teaches them to respect themselves, their peers and their communities,” she said.

Stephen Leafloor, the Ottawa social worker who also goes by the hip hop nom de guerre Buddha, describes the workshops as intense, five-day sessions that use music and breakdancing as “the hook” that gets kids to open up and talk about their problems.

After conducting dozens of workshops in Nunavut, Nunavik, the Tlicho in the Northwest Territories and



DJ Ben Jammin from Blueprint For Life shows a Pond Inlet elder how scratch on a turntable during a recent workshop. Blueprint For Life uses hip hop as a hook to help Northern youth confront personal and social issues. That will be happening a lot more in Nunavut with \$200,000 in new funding for the program from the federal government. (PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPHEN LEAFLOOR)

Cree communities in Northern Quebec, Leafloor has seen the effects of the program. It brings together generations, who rejoice in seeing one another have fun, especially when elders don gold jewelry and start scratching records like a hip hop DJ.

And it gives kids confidence by getting them to try something new and “take risks,” Leafloor says. He hopes

it’s helping to generate a new wave of young Inuit leaders and helping them confront the problems that plague Nunavut’s communities, like suicide, substance abuse and violence.

“It’s the way it doesn’t feel like social work, that’s the magic,” Leafloor said. “Suicide doesn’t get dealt with by putting your head in the sand. None of the issues do.”



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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to subsection 55(2) of the Act, notice is hereby given that on December 15, 2008, the NWB will hold a Public Hearing before disposing of the application.

File #: 1AR-NAN0208
Project: Nanisivik Project
Location: Latitude: 73°3’N; Longitude: 84°35’W
Purpose: Renewal of Type ‘A’ Water License

Location of Hearing: The Public Hearing will be conducted in Arctic Bay, Nunavut, at the Inuujaq School Gymnasium

Date and Time: February 23, 2009, 09:00 am.

Interested persons are invited to make representations on or before February 13, 2009, 5:00 pm MT, to:

Manager of Licensing
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119, Gjoa Haven, Nunavut X0B 1J0
Phone: (867) 360-6338; Fax: (867) 360-6369;
E-mail: licensing@nunavutwaterboard.org

Copies of all application documents may be obtained by affected parties, free of charge, through the internet on the NWB ftp site at the following link:

<http://nunavutwaterboard.org/ftp//PRUC/1 INDUSTRIAL/1A/1AR - Remediation/1AR-NAN0208>,

or by contacting:

Mr. Robert Carreau, Vice President
CanZinco Ltd.
Phone: (416) 363-4798; Fax: (416) 363-8020;
E-mail: bcarreau@breakwater.ca

The NWB may decide not to hold a Public Hearing if the Licensee consents in writing to the disposition of the application without a public hearing, provided that no other person informs the NWB by the tenth day before the day of the proposed Public Hearing of the intention to make a representation.

Failure to make a representation by the tenth day before the day of the proposed Public Hearing may result in the loss of the right to be compensated, as provided in the Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act.

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Have a Safe & Happy Holiday Season



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Nunasi Corporation and our Directors
and staff wish that the peace and joy of
Christmas is with you and yours
throughout the year.

NUNASI CORPORATION

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