

City of Iqaluit received EDRA 2005 Places Award

Elisapee Sheutiapik, the Mayor of Iqaluit, is proud to announce that the plan done for the Core Area and Capital District of Iqaluit has won an international award. The Environmental Design Research Association – a US-based organization – selected the Iqaluit project earlier this month.

The Core Area and Capital District plan is an overall redevelopment strategy for the future of Iqaluit's central area. It defines the future of the city in a way that is sensitive to the arctic environment, respects Inuit culture and creates a vision for the new capital of Nunavut. The Plan proposes a greater concentration of housing in the Core Area, along with a variety of other retail and institutional uses. This more compact development will have many benefits – it will prevent the loss of the tundra and it will ensure that Iqaluit continues to be a city where people can move about easily on foot. A network of civic, ceremonial and public spaces linked throughout the Core Area will respond to the arctic landscape, will reflect Inuit heritage and will make Iqaluit a capital that represents all of Nunavut.

This is the first time a project in Canada has been recognized by the Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA). EDRA was founded in 1968 by design professionals, social scientists, students, educators, and facility managers. The purpose of the organization is to recognize projects that contribute to a better understanding of the relationship between people, their natural surroundings and where they live.

The Iqaluit Core Area and Capital District Redevelopment Plan will be honoured at a special awards ceremony at the EDRA conference in Vancouver in April. The consulting team who prepared the Iqaluit plan for the City was Office for Urbanism, FoTenn Consultants Inc. and Laird & Associates.

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