



## NEWS RELEASE

### **Selection of a Nunavut Sculptor-in-Residence**

*Ottawa, Ontario – July 9, 2018*

The Honourable Geoff Regan, Speaker of the House of Commons, is pleased to announce that Nunavut artist Bart Hanna has been selected to create a sculpture for Centre Block.

In 2017, as part of the celebrations surrounding the 150th anniversary of Confederation, the House of Commons—with the support of Public Services and Procurement Canada—announced that it would commission a sculpture by an artist from Nunavut. The sculpture will be unveiled in 2019 to mark the 20th anniversary of the creation of Nunavut as a territory within Confederation. It will be displayed in West Block until it can permanently take up residence in the House of Commons Foyer following the restoration of Centre Block.

#### **Quote**

“We are delighted to include a new piece of sculpture in Centre Block that will showcase the artistic excellence of Nunavut.”

– Hon. Geoff Regan, Speaker of the House of Commons

#### **The artist: Bart Hanna**

Mr. Hanna, who is from Igloolik, Nunavut, began carving in the early 1960s and received formal art training in Canada and the United States. He works with many different media including soapstone, serpentinite, narwhal tusk, baleen, walrus bone and tusk, caribou antler, white marble from Arctic Bay, muskox horn and crystalline alabaster. His style is highly detailed, depicting life in the Arctic as well as cultural spirits. He is well known for his carvings of the sea goddess Sedna, drum dancers and shamanism.

## Quick facts

- This commissioned artwork is the final piece in the House of Commons legacy projects to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Confederation.
- The finished work will be a sculptural tympanum measuring 65 x 84 cm.
- The depth of the space is sufficient for a high relief, enabling great design flexibility for the artist.
- The artist was selected by a jury that included the Dominion Sculptor, invited experts from the arts community, and the Curator of the House of Commons.
- This new sculpture joins [a series of works](#) already housed in the Foyer, dating back to 1978.
- Former Speaker of the House of Commons James Jerome initiated this sculpture program featuring First Nations artists in 1978, at the suggestion of Wally Firth, Member of Parliament for the Northwest Territories, to reflect the diversity of Canada's cultural heritage by incorporating Indigenous art in the architecture of Centre Block.
- Nunavut Day, celebrated on July 9, commemorates the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act* and the *Nunavut Act*, both passed in the Canadian Parliament on July 9, 1993. The Northwest Territories divided into two territories to allow for the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999.

### For more information:

Heather Bradley  
Director of Communications  
Office of the Speaker of the House of Commons  
613-995-7882  
[heather.bradley@parl.gc.ca](mailto:heather.bradley@parl.gc.ca)