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INUVIK, CANADA'S FIRST ARCTIC TOWN

The following is a partial text of Prime Minister Diefenbaker's speech on July 21 at the ceremonies marking the opening of Inuvik, Northwest Territories:

"...Everywhere I look today with the fresh eyes of a stranger to the Western Arctic, history comes rushing to meet me. First the colourful history of this region of the Mackenzie Delta and the Western Arctic coast - history that the fathers and grand-fathers of many of you helped to make. History - some of it - that has had time to find its way into books and that the children are learning about in the schools to remind them to be proud of a northern heritage.

"Here at Inuvik - in the beautiful Sir Alexander Mackenzie School, in Grollier Hall and Stringer Hall - you have the best possible reminder of the lives of men who dared the north as it was in those days equipped with little more than courage. This is why our largest schools in the Northwest Territories, and the student residences associated with them, bear famous names - of explorers and missionaries - names known and honoured not only in the north but far beyond it.

THREE KINDS OF HISTORY

"That is one kind of history. And there is history of another sort in the fact that I am here with you today - the first Canadian Prime Minister to travel north of the Arctic Circle. I could not help thinking as we flew north from Fort Simpson - and this vast unrolling landscape kept pushing the horizons always farther away - of another Prime Minister of Canada, the first. I thought of Sir John A. Macdonald and how he would have wished to be at this ceremony today.

"It is just 75 years ago that Sir John made his famous journey to the west coast by the newly-com-

pleted trans-continental railway -- an event full of the drama of nation-building.

"He sparked the imagination of Canadians with his vision of a greater Canada - one that would stretch from coast to coast. How he would have relished this moment - his coast-to-coast dream immeasurably enlarged by this north-south dimension, which I doubt ever occurred to that quick mind or, for that matter, some of our better brains of today. For too long we have forgotten the Arctic.

"And there is a third kind of history. The history we are making today and that you will make here in the years to come. This is a town with no past to leave behind - only the future to look to. The future not of one race, or two, but of the people of all cultures who choose to make it their home...

"I wish I could see Inuvik in winter - a town with fewer chimneys surely than any town in Canada and with no furnaces to stoke! I - who am no engineer - can only guess at the number and complexity of the construction problems that had to be solved to raise up such a town. I say 'raise' because it is the word to describe Inuvik - a town built above the permafrost, resting on piles frozen solid as iron. How many thousand piles must have been cut, hauled, and driven in by stream jet to create the foundations!...

A MAJOR ARCTIC EFFORT

"One does not have to be an engineer to realize that the construction of Inuvik must have called on the full resources of Canada's Arctic building research. For so far north, you are contending with some of the most difficult frost conditions in Canada. And we were not a country that had been engaged in large-scale Arctic construction in the past like some