

For Immediate Release February 29, 2012

## First Nations Bank Supports Iqaluit Relief Efforts

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan – First Nations Bank of Canada has contributed \$5,000 and established a trust fund at its Iqaluit Branch to receive community donations in light of the fire that blazed through the "White Row" complex on Monday. All contributions to the fund will be donated to Iqaluit's Volunteer Fire Department to assist those impacted by the fire.

"Our thoughts are with those who have lost their homes and the volunteer firefighters who worked so hard to protect people from that devastating fire," said Keith Martell, CEO of First Nations Bank. "We encourage our customers and neighbours in Iqaluit to visit our branch, donate to the fund and help Iqaluit's Volunteer Fire Department continue its work."

Kathleen Gomes is the branch manager of First Nations Bank in Iqaluit and serves as a member of the local Volunteer Fire Department. She feels confident that the community will answer the call for support.

"I have lived in Iqaluit for many years and I know this community very well," said Gomes. "We are a community that stands together in times of trouble and I am confident that we will come together this time too."

Headquartered in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, First Nations Bank of Canada operates seven full-service branches in four province and two territories, including one in Iqaluit. It is a member of the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Canadian Payments Association and is an approved lender with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. It is Canada's only independently owned and operated Aboriginal bank.

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