



Huit Huit Tours Ltd.

There is no doubt that Nunavut accommodations are unique and anyone who has travelled to a Northern community typically understands how hard it can be to locate a place to stay. Except when travellers go to Cape Dorset. Since 2007, Dorset Suites, owned and operated by Huit Huit Tours Ltd., has proudly welcomed visitors to Cape Dorset with an inviting, homey and modern choice of accommodations.

It all began in 1989 when Northerners, Timmun and Kristiina Alariaq, established Huit Huit Tours to provide a variety of guided on-the-land tours to visitors interested in learning and experiencing the traditional Inuit way of life. As business and tourism increased, the Alariaq's realized that proper accommodations were needed in Cape Dorset to help sustain this growth. As a first step, they built a new 'beach-house' style home for themselves and rented rooms to visitors needing a place to stay. Over the next 10 years, they purchased several other houses

and transformed them into visitor accommodations. This allowed them to expand their tour business and provide a higher standard of accommodations to tourists, business travellers and construction workers who visited this picturesque community.

In the early 2000's, the couple realized a quality hotel was desperately needed in order to promote tourism and assist in the long-term prosperity of their community. They envisioned a distinctive building that resembled traditional stone houses (qummaq) and reflected the artistic talent of their community. So in 2002, they began to prepare a thorough and progressive business plan to bring to life their vision of a new hotel. The result was Dorset Suites, which would be favoured by tourists, travellers and locals alike.

As the Alariaq's found out, dreaming the dream and making it a reality are two very different things. Locating funding partners proved to be a challenge as the cost of construction in the North can be daunting –

not impossible, but daunting nonetheless. Their business plan outlined a budget, which in the end doubled due to the high cost of construction in Nunavut. They revised the design of the building to be more economical, while remaining true to their vision of quality and comfort.

Even with the Alariaq's substantial personal investments in the project, traditional banks were not interested in taking on the perceived financial risk. They approached the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation (NBCC) for business loans and to Aboriginal Business Canada for grants. After securing some funds, they consulted Atuqtuarvik Corporation, which not only financed the remainder of the project, but also provided sound financial advice that helped the project overcome challenges and allowed it to thrive and succeed. Atuqtuarvik Corporation provides loans and equity investments to Inuit-owned businesses in order to develop and grow the Nunavut economy.


Once the doors were open in 2007 and the business began operating, the Alariaq's set up an accelerated repayment plan resulting in the company paying off their loan and being debt free within three years. Through this process, they established a respected business relationship with Atuqtuarvik Corporation. When they set their sights on expanding their business in 2010, Atuqtuarvik Corporation welcomed their new business plan and agreed to help finance this multi-million dollar hotel expansion project (along with some funding from the Government of Nunavut's Strategic Investments Program). Construction began in the spring of 2011 for the eight-room hotel.

Atuqtuarvik Corporation saw the construction of Dorset Suites as a valuable long-term investment for the community of Cape Dorset. Not only would the rooms provide much needed lodging for visitors, but the original building has a sizable executive meeting room with conferencing capabilities. The new facility will even include a commercial kitchen and dining room!

Dorset Suites employs three full-time people with additional seasonal workers to



fulfill increased tourism and catering needs. The architectural design of these projects has been supported and appreciated by the community, and have inspired future projects to follow this initiative. The couple continues to operate Huit Huit Tours, which employs

local residents to help with tours and introduce visitors to Inuit traditional knowledge. 

For more information, contact huithuit@magma.ca or dorsetsuites.com.



Congratulations Huit Huit Tours and Dorset Suites

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Atuqtuarvik Corporation would like to congratulate Huit Huit Tours Ltd and the staff of Dorset Suites on their growth and continued success. 2011 marks the completion of the Dorset Suites Hotel and conference centre. Atuqtuarvik Corporation welcomes new business to the community and encourages visitors to participate in Inuit traditional knowledge provided by Huit Huit Tours.

Continue to let your dreams be as big as the territory they're destined for.

Think Big!

