

The meaning of and significance of the Inukshuk.

Why is the Inukshuk a suitable representation as this web page background? There are many different representation for the look of the Inukshuk but they all carry the same meaning and representation.



“Inukshuk, pronounced in-ook-shook, are stone monuments erected in the image of humans. One of their purposes was to communicate direction in the harsh and desolate Arctic. As such they were a tool for survival, and symbolic of the unselfish acts of a nomadic people - the Inuit - who built them as signposts to make the way easier and safer for those who followed.

The hands of many and the efforts of an entire group were required to build these massive stone sculptures. They are the result of a consensus of purpose, of focused action by a group united in its goal and labour. The Inukshuk are the product of cooperation, teaching us that as good as our individual efforts may be, together we can do even greater things.

Each stone is a separate entity. Each supports, and is supported by, the one above and the one below it. No one piece is any more or less important than another. Its strength lies in its unity. Its significance comes from its meaning as a whole. What is true about the Inukshuk is true about people. Each individual entity alone has significance. As part of a team each of us supports, and is supported by, another. We are united by our common goals, and together we are part of a greater whole.

The stones which make up the Inukshuk are secured through balance. They are chosen for how well they fit together. Looking at the structure it can be easily seen that the removal of even one stone will destroy the integrity of the whole. So, too, with a team. Each individual in a team is necessary for the realization of the team's purpose. The removal of even one person will result in the weakening of the structure. What holds the team together is the balance - the complementary nature of the individual skills.

The Inukshuk are a symbol of the human spirit. They recognize our ability to succeed with others, where we would fail alone. They remind us of our need to belong to something greater than ourselves. They reinforce our ability to commit to

common goals.

The Inukshuk celebrate our working together. They continue to remind us of our inter-dependent responsibilities to invest our efforts today, to direct a better way for all of us tomorrows.

The difference we make today, counts in all our tomorrows.

The Meaningful Messenger

Today, the Inukshuk are a tangible symbol of communication - a universal means of speaking about our concerns for one another, and our dependence on one another.

Because of its history, the Inukshuk is an effective vehicle to acknowledge and convey enlightened management and human resource practices, the importance of personal contribution, responsible environmental leadership and an invitation to speak with one another on a higher level about what really matters.

Everyone needs to know they are making a difference...in their jobs, to their colleagues...to whatever tasks they devote their time, energy and enthusiasm. The Inukshuk act as a reminder to all of us that our efforts are appreciated, and the difference we make today, does count in all our tomorrows.”*

* as defined in weegates.com

A meaning that I particularly like is “you were here and it made a difference”.

Whatever meaning and significance you choose to attribute to the Inukshuk, let's all be an Inukshuk for each other.

And so that is why the Inukshuk was chosen as the background for this webpage hoping that the information provided will be an Inukshuk to those who visit this website.