



News Release

Government of Nunavut to administer annual Eastern Arctic Sealift

IQALUIT, Nunavut (June 12, 2000) –, Minister of Public Works and Services, Maniok Thompson announces that the Government of Nunavut has applied to the Federal Government to commence the devolution of the Sealift Function from the Canadian Coast Guard to the Government of Nunavut.

Minister Thompson also indicated that she has received a reply from the Honorable Herb Dhaliwal, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, to a letter she had sent on April 7, 2000.

“Minister Herb Dhaliwal has expressed a willingness to work together in response to my request,” said Minister Thompson.

The current Coast Guard Eastern Arctic Sealift program, which evolved in the early 1970’s, expires following the completion of the 2000 shipping season. The sealift program provides marine transportation to the residences and businesses of the Eastern Arctic as well as government.

Minister Thompson states that there are a number of details that will require closer study and cooperation such as coordination of the sealift function with the requirement for “Ice Breaking” services.

“I feel that we are moving in the right direction in order to bring more control of our infrastructure back under the control of Nunavummiut”, said Minister Thompson. “I am excited about the potential opportunities for local involvement in future sealift functions.”

The Department of Public Works and Services will begin the process of working closely with Minister Dhaliwal’s department in order to review the sealift process and to plan for the transfer of this function to Nunavut.

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