



News Release

Arctic Bay to be consulted on impact of Nanisivik Mine closure

IQALUIT, Nunavut (December 14, 2001) – Sustainable Development Minister Olayuk Akesuk will visit Arctic Bay December 18, 2001 to start discussions with the community about how to deal with the socio-economic impact from the closure of the zinc mine at Nanisivik.

“We want to support the citizens of Arctic Bay in a community development process that will secure the long-term future of the community,” Minister Akesuk said.

Minister Akesuk, Quttiktuq MLA Rebekah Williams, and government officials will meet with community leaders and local residents.

“I want to hear directly from the community about the social and economic issues that will arise from the closure of the mine,” Minister Akesuk said.

Breakwater Resources Ltd. announced it will close its mine during September 2002. It had not been expected to close until after 2004. Minister Akesuk stressed the company is responsible for properly restoring the mine site.

“The federal government ensures there is a complete environmental clean up of the site,” Minister Akesuk added. “We are committed to ensuring the community has a direct voice that is heard by the company and the federal government.”

“It is very important that the community is involved in all aspect of discussions, planning and decisions regarding the mine closure,” MLA Williams said. “This closure is setting a precedent for other mine developments in the future in Nunavut, therefore all responsible agencies have to work very closely and have good communication between them, and the community that is impacted must come first.”

The Government of Nunavut will explore the viability of alternative uses for the properly restored mine site.

“In exploring issues with the community, we acknowledge concerns about a possible impact on jet service to the Arctic Bay area,” the Minister added.

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