



News release

Premier Okalik announces Cabinet portfolio shuffle

IQALUIT, Nunavut, (December 17, 2001) – Premier Paul Okalik announces several changes within his Cabinet at the mid-term point of the Government’s mandate.

“During the past two-and-a-half years, I have spoken with my Ministers about their strengths and interests. Today’s announcement takes into consideration those many conversations and their work to date,” Premier Okalik said. “These changes also restructure some areas to continue our process of developing our government. They are part of overall restructuring that will happen during the next weeks and months.”

Effective today, Minister Jack Anawak will move from Community Government and Transportation to take on the role of Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth (CLEY).

“Minister Anawak’s experience and enthusiasm in the expression and protection of Inuit culture, language and tradition should help move the work of this department forward,” Premier Okalik said.

Minister Peter Kattuk will move from CLEY to Public Works and Services.

“As the government continues to develop community economic incentives, such as contracting through NNI, Minister Kattuk’s experience of living in a small, non-decentralized community will be valuable,” Premier Okalik said.

Minister Manito Thompson will move from Public Works and Services to Community Government and Transportation and Minister Responsible for Sport Nunavut.

“Minister Thompson’s experience will be valuable as our Government moves towards strengthening the role of community-based decision making,” Premier Okalik said.

The Housing Corporation will move to the responsibility of Minister of Finance Kelvin Ng, but will continue to remain a stand-alone entity. Housing continues to be a priority of the Government and due to the significant financial implications is best suited to falling under the responsibility of the Minister of Finance.

Coordinating training programs to Nunavut's employment needs will become the responsibility of Education Minister Peter Kilabuk, who will also take on the portfolio of the Department of Human Resources.

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