



News release



Leaders meet to discuss Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Dene and Inuit

OTTAWA, Ontario (January 23, 2001) – Chief Ila Bussidor of the Sayisi Dene, Chief John Dantouze of the Northlands First Nation, President Paul Quassa of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, President Paul Kaludjak of Kivalliq Inuit Association, Premier Paul Okalik of the Government of Nunavut and Minister Eric Robinson of the Government of Manitoba committed today to work together in a spirit of friendship and cooperation based on the following points of agreement:

1. A Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation shall be concluded between the Sayisi Dene, Northlands First Nation, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Kivalliq Inuit Association and witnessed by the Government of Nunavut and the Government of Manitoba.
2. There shall be a formal recognition by all parties of the rights of the Sayisi Dene and Northlands First Nation in Nunavut and Inuit rights in Manitoba.
3. The parties will meet again in three months in Nunavut to conclude an action plan.
4. Negotiations among the parties shall continue along two tracks:
 - A legal process supported by the federal government,
 - An ongoing dialogue between NTI, KIA, Northlands First Nation and Sayisi Dene
5. While respecting the ongoing court proceedings, the parties will work together to conclude an acceptable confidentiality and disclosure of information agreement that will allow appropriate consultation to take place.

All parties look forward to working together in the spirit of cooperation.

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For more information, contact:

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