



## News release

### Premier Okalik reacts to federal Speech from the Throne

**IQALUIT, Nunavut (January 30, 2001)** – Premier Paul Okalik said he welcomes federal government commitments in the Speech from the Throne, but adds the most pressing needs in Nunavut – public infrastructure development and social housing – were not fully articulated.

“These are areas in which Nunavut is struggling and it is critical for the federal government to recognize the need to be involved in improving conditions in the territory,” Premier Okalik said.

Premier Okalik added the Speech from the Throne is a positive step in some directions and he is particularly pleased with specific mention of health care initiatives, including tobacco reduction, substance abuse intervention and promotion of mental health.

Premier Okalik added he is encouraged by the focus on Aboriginal issues, as well as the federal government commitment to strengthen laws, research efforts and other measures of health protection relating to toxic substances and environmental contaminants.

The Government of Nunavut anticipates working closely with the federal government in helping it better understand the realities of the modern North, Premier Okalik said.

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