



## News release

### Climate change and children's health among issues at Western Premiers' Conference

**MOOSE JAW, Saskatchewan (June 1, 2001)** – Premier Okalik said climate change, education and children's health were among the topics discussed during the Western Premiers' Conference in Moose Jaw this week.

“Our discussions focused on a wide variety of issues, especially some that are very pressing for Nunavut. My colleagues and I are asking the federal government to move quickly in the areas of health, education and early childhood development, among others,” Premier Okalik said. “We also called on the federal government to fulfill its Speech from the Throne commitments relating to Aboriginal Canadians.”

Premier Okalik said issues such as post secondary education, fetal alcohol syndrome and changes in the Arctic climate are key areas for the Government of Nunavut and he is pleased that his Western provincial and territorial colleagues are calling for more action on these issues.

He added that western premiers also called on the federal government to determine how current and future federal programming can best meet the economic development needs of northern communities. The current per capita formula allocates 1/16 of one per cent of national program funds to Nunavut.

“We have always maintained that funding on a per capita basis does not work for Nunavut,” Premier Okalik said. “We have a small population spread across a vast geographical space, and my colleagues recognize our challenges in that respect.”

-30-

For more information, contact:

Annette Bourgeois  
Press Secretary  
Office of the Premier  
☎ (867) 975-5059 or (867) 975-1317  
✉ (867) 975-5051  
email: [abourgeois@gov.nu.ca](mailto:abourgeois@gov.nu.ca)