



News release

Nunavut Day declared as official Government holiday

IQALUIT, Nunavut (June 21, 2001) – Minister of Human Resources Kelvin Ng is pleased to announce that July 9th, Nunavut Day, will be officially recognized as a holiday for all Government of Nunavut employees.

In Kugluktuk on July 9, 1993, the Right Honourable Ramon Hnatyshyn, Governor General of Canada, gave royal assent to two new laws: the *Nunavut Act* and the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act*. This marked the implementation of events that led to the creation of Nunavut and its new public government.

“Recognizing July 9th as a public service holiday allows us to honour the people who envisioned the land claims agreement that resulted in a new public government for all the people of Nunavut,” said Minister Ng. “Those dedicated men and women who negotiated this claim and who worked tirelessly to create Nunavut have earned this very public recognition of their efforts.”

Employees of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and the regional Inuit associations celebrate Nunavut Day each year on July 9th with a paid holiday. Since 1999, the Government of Nunavut has recognized this day as a half-day holiday for their employees. During the last legislative session, a bill was introduced that would have created a statutory holiday to recognize July 9th by moving the August statutory holiday. This bill was not passed into law due to concerns expressed by municipalities, the business community, MLAs and members of the public.

Nunavut Day will have limited financial impact on Nunavut’s treasury and any incremental costs will be absorbed by existing departmental budgets.

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