



News release

Premier shares Nunavut justice initiatives with federal minister

IQALUIT, Nunavut May 10, 2001 – Premier Paul Okalik met with Justice Canada Minister Anne McLellan to discuss recent developments in the territory.

“This was my first opportunity to meet with Minister McLellan since assuming the portfolio and it was an opportunity to share with her the latest initiatives that we have been pursuing within the Nunavut justice system,” Premier Okalik said.

Topics of discussion included the Nunavut Court of Justice, the appointment of a third judge for Nunavut, the development of human rights legislation, the new federal *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, and an appeal court more representative of the North.

“I was pleased to hear that Justice Canada will include Nunavut in consultations on the appointment of a new justice in Nunavut,” Premier Okalik said. “Minister McLellan and I also discussed the need for further training for justices of the peace and funding for community justice committees. Justice Canada has been supportive of these initiatives in the past and we’re looking forward to expanding on that support. These are very important in the development of more community-based justice initiatives.”

Premier Okalik also updated Minister McLellan on the new Akitsiraq Law School and the interest among residents to participate in the program. The School is established through the University of Victoria and is funded, in part, by Nunavut and Justice Canada.

“There were more than 100 applications received for the program and that is very encouraging,” Premier Okalik said. “This was a positive joint effort with Justice Canada and the interest is there to pursue similar programs.”

Premier Okalik added that it is important to share these initiatives with his federal counterpart to ensure an understanding of the steps the Government of Nunavut is taking to improve the lives of Nunavummiut.

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