



News release

Minister takes Nunavut fishing issues to the Senate Committee on Fisheries

IQALUIT, Nunavut (May 15, 2001) – Sustainable Development Minister Olayuk Akesuk appeared before the Standing Senate Committee on Fisheries in Ottawa last week to brief them on the issues facing Nunavut's offshore fishing industry.

Minister Akesuk's appearance before the Standing Committee followed from meetings held last July when a working group of the Senate Fisheries Committee traveled to Nunavut to familiarize themselves with the issues facing fisheries in the region.

"This meeting was an opportunity for me to explain to Senators the strategy we have for developing this sector, and the challenges that we face in overcoming some of the current obstacles facing our offshore fishing industry" Minister Akesuk said.

Minister Akesuk presented a summary of the current level of Nunavut involvement in Canada's Atlantic fishery and spoke to the current barriers to growth, outlining Nunavut's focus in the development of the fishery as concentrated on five areas: allocation of resources, access to resources, infrastructure, training and science.

"Obviously, without an Economic Development Agreement with Canada, Nunavut is limited in our ability to make progress in a number of these areas," Minister Akesuk said. "I found the Standing Senate Committee on Fisheries supportive of our position on the issues that must be tackled to move forward with this promising sector of our economy."

The meeting was taped for later viewing on the Cable Public Affairs Channel (CPAC) and is available in real-time on the CPAC website.

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