



## News release

### Minister pleased with POPs Convention support

**IQALUIT, Nunavut (May 07, 2001)** – Sustainable Development Minister Olayuk Akesuk is encouraged by discussions on key environmental issues facing northerners at a meeting of federal, provincial and territorial environment ministers in Winnipeg last week.

“I was very pleased to see the support by Canadian environment ministers for Canada to sign the Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Stockholm, Sweden later this month,” Minister Akesuk said. “POPs are a concern to Nunavummiut because they appear, to varying degrees, in our food chain.”

Environment ministers also discussed Canada’s agenda for the forthcoming international discussions on climate change to be held in Bonn, Germany in July. Recent research conducted in three Nunavut communities has pointed to changes that Nunavummiut are witnessing in weather patterns, seasonal changes, and ice and snow conditions.

“The impacts of climate change are being witnessed first hand in Nunavut, particularly by our elders, who have the benefit of having observed land and weather patterns over many years,” Minister Akesuk said. “We have learned in the past few years that the health of our environment is dependent on activities well beyond our border.

“It is important that our government work with other government and non-government organizations to bring a human focus to the impact of changes to our environment that are a result of industrial practices around the world,” Minister Akesuk added. “And I urge the U.S. government to revisit its decision to pull back from the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change.”

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