



News release

Cabinet sets target for economic development strategy

IQALUIT, Nunavut (September 19, 2001) – Premier Paul Okalik said a two-day Cabinet retreat in Repulse Bay, focusing exclusively on economic development potential in Nunavut, has laid the groundwork for an economic strategy to be finalized early next year.

“We need to be innovative and imaginative,” Premier Okalik said. “It’s obvious to look at such areas as tourism, mining and construction, but there is also potential in research and development, environmental technologies and traditional occupations. We need to examine all of these to identify short-term, mid-term and long-term goals for economic development in our communities.”

Premier Okalik said some Nunavut communities have already begun to develop economic plans specific to their areas and the Government will be interested in working with the various stakeholders to advance economic opportunities.

“We especially want to assist Nunavummiut in maximizing the potential of our traditional mixed economy,” Premier Okalik added. “In speaking with students in Repulse Bay, I encouraged them to prepare themselves for the diverse employment opportunities that Nunavut will present in the coming years.”

Cabinet examined a variety of topics during the retreat, including Nunavut’s mixed economy, globalization and economic strategies developed in other Canadian regions. Premier Okalik said Government would be consulting widely during the development of a Nunavut strategy, with a final document ready for release early in the new year.

-30-

For more information contact:

Annette Bourgeois
Press Secretary
Office of the Premier
Government of Nunavut
☎ (867) 975-5059
☎ (867) 975-5051
Email: abourgeois@gov.nu.ca