



## News release

### Territorial Health Ministers working towards northern strategy

**IQALUIT, Nunavut (September 28, 2001)** - Health and Social Services Minister Ed Picco is looking forward to working with his territorial counterparts on the development of a co-ordinated northern strategy when they meet in Yellowknife in November.

The November meeting will be a follow-up to the round of discussions begun earlier this week at the annual meeting of Canada's health ministers in St. John's, Nfld.

"That meeting gave me the opportunity to share with health ministers throughout the country information on initiatives that have been undertaken to improve health services," Minister Picco said. "We left those talks with a renewed commitment to work together on these important issues."

The meetings revolved around discussions on cost containment, the potential for collaborative models and effective utilization within Canada's health systems, including pharmaceutical management options. Health ministers discussed human resource issues with special reference to progress on national strategies. They also met with federal Health Minister Allan Rock and with the board of directors of the Canadian Blood Services.

In separate meetings, the territorial ministers discussed fetal alcohol syndrome and effects, negotiations with the federal government around non-insured health benefits, human resources and best practices in each region.

As the meeting wrapped up, Minister Picco joined with his provincial and territorial counterparts in reaffirming a commitment to work toward sustainable health systems.

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