



News Release

Government releases economic development strategy framework document for public debate

IQALUIT, Nunavut (April 23, 2002) – Premier Paul Okalik announced the next step in the development of a strategy to identify and maximize Nunavut’s economic development potential.

Premier Okalik, together with Sustainable Development Minister Olayuk Akesuk, released *The Naujaat Challenge: Working Together*, the Government’s framework plan for the preparation of the strategy. Public consultation will begin immediately.

“We talk of harnessing Nunavut’s potential and the importance of Nunavummiut to being involved in the development of the economy of the territory,” Premier Okalik said. “*The Naujaat Challenge* identifies some of the key issues that must be considered in the preparation of an economic development strategy for Nunavut. This document will help to determine the government’s priorities for economic development, as we continue to strengthen our self-reliance.”

Minister Akesuk is encouraging the public to become involved in the preparation of the strategy by participating in public consultations.

“We want to hear what Nunavummiut think should be done to promote the growth of our economy,” Minister Akesuk said. “It is vital that those views are expressed and incorporated as we work together.”

Last fall the Government announced that an economic development strategy for Nunavut would be prepared for public release this year. During the winter, targeted consultations were held with business interest groups, elders and representatives of Inuit organizations. The Government also announced in March that the preparation of the strategy is a government priority.

“The responses we have received have been positive,” Premier Okalik said. “I believe that it is widely recognized that a key to our economic future will be our ability to work collaboratively with other governments, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Inuit organizations, the private sector and our communities.”

Copies of *The Naujaat Challenge: Working Together* will be distributed to all Nunavut communities in the coming weeks.

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