



News Release

Premier Okalik applauds contract signing in Berlin during Team Canada trade mission

BERLIN, Germany (February 19, 2002) – Premier Paul Okalik today witnessed the signing of two contracts between businesses in Nunavut and Germany during the Team Canada 2002 trade mission to two German cities this week.

Brian Schindel of Kivalliq Foods Inc. on behalf of the Nunavut Development Corporation, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Georg Voegerl, an import/export agent in Germany, to work towards a deal that could see Nunavut char products distributed throughout Germany and into other German-speaking countries.

“The hard work and networking is beginning to reap results, and this is one of many German companies interested in doing business with Nunavut,” Premier Okalik said shortly after the event, which was also attended by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and International Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew.

Photographer Hans Blohm also signed a contract that will result in the distribution of his book, *The Voice of the Natives: From the Canadian North to Alaska*, in Germany. Mr. Blohm is part of the Nunavut delegation’s program to promote the territory as an exotic tourist destination to the Germans, who are known for their enthusiasm for adventure tourism.

While in Berlin, Premier Paul Okalik said Nunavut will host a day-long Nunavut promotional program that includes throat singers, a fashion show of the Government of Nunavut’s sealskin coat collection, and samplings of caribou and char.

Sylvia Ivalu is also on the trade mission to promote tourism and film production potential within Nunavut. Ms. Ivalu is a leading actress in the award-winning film *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner*. A similar program will be held in Munich on Thursday.

Other events in Germany included a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Canadian Embassy in Berlin, as well as a dinner with the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Gerhard Schroeder.

Prior to arriving in Germany, Team Canada spent a week in Moscow, Russia. While there, Premier Okalik participated in a roundtable discussion on marketing aboriginal art and opened an exhibition of Inuit art from Chukotka and Canada.

“Moscow is a vibrant city and that part of the mission was very interesting,” Premier Okalik said. “There are a number of sectors, including fur fashion and Arctic foods, that we will be researching for potential investment by Nunavut businesses. We have strong natural ties with Russia because of our location and we need to concentrate on these circumpolar connections.”

The Team Canada trade mission will return to Canada on Friday.

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