

News Release

Premier Okalik meets with Cabinet ministers following federal shuffle

IQALUIT, Nunavut (**February 7, 2002**) – Premier Paul Okalik will travel to Ottawa today to meet with four federal Cabinet ministers to discuss Nunavut's priorities and issues.

On Friday, Premier Okalik will meet with Deputy Prime Minister John Manley, Health Minister Anne McLellan, Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Robert Nault, and Justice Minister Martin Cauchon. Nunavut Health Minister Ed Picco will accompany Premier Okalik to the meeting with Minister McLellan.

"It's important that Cabinet ministers understand Nunavut's challenges and potential in their new roles, and it's my goal to highlight our priorities to these federal ministers," Premier Okalik said. "It's also vital to stress to those who are familiar with Nunavut the progress we are making, and how the federal government can work with us to fulfill our goals."

Premier Okalik said among the topics to be discussed are Nunavut's pressing infrastructure needs, the territory's poor health indicators, federal responsibilities for Aboriginal Canadians, and the impact of federal legislation in the territory.

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