



News Release

Premier announces Year III of Decentralization Plan

IQALUIT, Nunavut (May 21, 2002) – Premier Paul Okalik announces the implementation of Year III of the Decentralization Plan, establishing and relocating 72 decentralized government positions in seven communities this fiscal year.

The Plan was developed in July 1999 and identifies the Government's regional and headquarters operations in 10 communities.

“Decentralization is a commitment of our Government,” Premier Okalik said. “We are in the third year of the three-year Decentralization Plan. It has not been without its challenges, but I am confident that we are moving in the right direction to bring the benefits expected from the establishment of our Government to our residents.”

“Decentralization brings the Government and Nunavummiut closer and increases employment and training opportunities in many of our communities,” Premier Okalik added. “We are committed to fulfilling our obligations for all targeted positions in the decentralized communities and will work to see that happen.”

A total of 72 positions will be decentralized to seven communities this fiscal year in a phased-in approach. The Decentralization Secretariat will coordinate the implementation with departments to ensure it is completed with minimal disruption of services to Nunavummiut.

The positions will be decentralized on a quarterly basis. Government will offer employees currently occupying identified positions three options: relocate, move to another government position or resign.

Initially, the Government had identified 340 positions decentralizing to 10 communities, however that number will grow to 429 positions by the completion of the Decentralization Plan.

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