



## News Release

### **NEW CABINET TO CONTINUE PINASUAQTAVUT VISION**

QIKIQTARJUAK (April 8, 2004) – Nunavut government cabinet ministers have completed a two-day review and priority setting session of government operations. The meeting was the first step in setting the economic and cultural legislative agenda for the territory's second government.

“The new cabinet brings together the political experience of the first government along with the skills and vision of newly elected executive council members. Each member's talents were called upon as we reviewed the accomplishments of the first government and began charting the course for the new term of office,” said Premier Paul Okalik.

The cabinet review of accomplishments and outstanding challenges was conducted in the light of Pinasuaqtavut (Bathurst Mandate) commitments to building healthy communities, simplicity and unity, self-reliance and continuing learning. Cabinet reached consensus on turning its focus from building the structures of government to building an economy based on Pinasuaqtavut principles and the incorporation of Inuit societal values through the application of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit.

Particular attention was paid to realizing election campaign commitments, creating new economic opportunities in non-decentralized communities, improving the working relationship with Nunavut Tungavik Incorporated (NTI) and the development of a Nunavut education curriculum and language of instruction models.

At the local level, following a tour and demonstration of a pilot project clam harvesting operation, the Premier and cabinet offered their support for the long term development of this community based industry.

“The government of Nunavut has a responsibility to encourage economic development as well as sharing the benefits of our territory with all communities. It is also in the interest of our territory that we recommit to consult with Nunavummiut on major public policy initiatives as we build a stronger working relationship with communities and Inuit organizations,” said Okalik.

The final determination of the government's legislative agenda will be set following a consultation with all members of the Legislative Assembly. A Full Caucus retreat is tentatively scheduled for September of this year. Some interim program and policy changes will be developed by the responsible departments and will be announced during the first sitting of the second legislature in May 2004.

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