



News Release

Nunavut Appoints Chief Negotiator for Devolution Talks

IQALUIT, Nunavut (December 28, 2005) -- The Government of Nunavut has appointed long-time Northerner Tony Penikett, a seasoned and successful negotiator, to lead its negotiations for a devolution agreement with the federal government.

“Mr. Penikett’s mandate will be to ensure that our devolution negotiations with the federal government reflect the aspiration of Nunavut to be treated as an equal partner in confederation. Nunavummiut must be treated equally to other Canadians in benefiting from our natural resources,” said Okalik.

Penikett’s relevant experience spans more than 20 years and includes roles such as:

- 18 years as a Member of the Yukon Legislative Assembly, including four years as finance minister, and seven years as premier and minister responsible for land claims and constitutional negotiations
- A senior public servant with responsibilities for resource development negotiations in Saskatchewan;
- British Columbia’s deputy minister for negotiations; and
- Adjunct Professor of Public Policy, Simon Fraser University.

Devolution negotiations between Nunavut, the federal government, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated are expected to begin early next year. The parties have set a goal to conclude the negotiations by December 2008.

“Devolution for Nunavut is part of a historical process of nation building for Canada, and I look forward to playing a role in that process,” said Penikett. “I am approaching the negotiations with the view that devolution is more than an administrative transfer of the responsibility over land and resource revenues. Building on the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, it is also a jurisdictional transfer that will move the territory closer to eventual provincehood.”

Nunavut has indicated it will seek a resource revenue arrangement comparable to those recently achieved by the Maritime provinces.

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