



News Release

Nunavut Completes Transfer of Liquor Management

IQALUIT, Nunavut (January 24, 2005) -- Six jobs have been created in Rankin Inlet as a result of Nunavut completing the transfer of responsibility for administering liquor operations in the territory.

“The repatriation of operations from the Northwest Territories will generate economic benefits in Nunavut through new infrastructure, new employment and the development of a corporate knowledge base,” says Nunavut Finance Minister Leona Aglukkaq, who is responsible for the Liquor Act.

Purchasing, storage and distribution of liquor will now be administered by Nunavut Liquor Management from its new head office and warehouse in Rankin Inlet. Liquor was previously managed from Hay River, NWT, under an agreement with the Government of Northwest Territories that goes back to division.

Local businesses will benefit from the increase in economic activity through local services required to sustain the new operations and through income from the new positions.

Nunavut Liquor Management is responsible for liquor licencing and enforcement and includes the Nunavut Liquor Commission, all of which is now centred in Rankin Inlet.

The Rankin Inlet warehouse will also generate new revenue by diverting product purchases now being made outside the territory.

“Economic development opportunities that increase local employment is welcome news in our community,” said Rankin Inlet North MLA Tagak Curley.

Clientele from communities designated under the Liquor Act will be able to purchase products through Rankin Inlet or Iqaluit without the use of an import permit.

“In the past Nunavut has experienced the negative social repercussions of alcohol without receiving the revenues that could be used to educate and make alcohol awareness a priority in future years the extra revenue that will be generated by this transfer will help us in addressing these issues,” said Levinia Brown, who is MLA for Rankin Inlet South/Whale Cove and Minister of Health and Social Services.

-30-

For further information contact:

Phil Bourdeau, Office of the Minister of Finance
Ph. (867) 975-5007 Email: pbourdeau@gov.nu.ca