



News Release

Nunavut Day Chosen for New *Wildlife Act*

IQALUIT, Nunavut (July 8, 2005) -- Environment Minister Olayuk Akesuk and Premier Paul Okalik have announced that the made in Nunavut *Wildlife Act* will come into force on Nunavut Day, July 9, 2005. The *Wildlife Act* is the country's most modern and innovative wildlife legislation.

"This made in Nunavut wildlife legislation was developed after consultation with Nunavummiut, and in partnership with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. It reflects Inuit rights in the harvesting, possession, and usage of wildlife, and contains a set of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit principles to guide wildlife management in Nunavut," said Akesuk.

The *Wildlife Act* was passed by the Legislature in December 2003. The made in Nunavut legislation was the culmination of extensive public consultations that began three years earlier.

"I think it is most appropriate that a new law that reflects Inuit societal values and the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* should come into effect on the day when we celebrate the creation of Nunavut," said Okalik.

The *Wildlife Act* implements the wildlife management regime of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement respecting the roles and responsibilities of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, the Regional Wildlife Organizations, and the Hunters and Trappers Organizations. It also contains provisions to protect and conserve our wildlife and wildlife habitat for the use and benefit of future generations of Nunavummiut, including specific protections for wildlife habitat and species at risk, and increased penalties for violations.

New regulations to accompany the *Act* will be finalized after consultation with stakeholders this fall.

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