



News Release

Government of Nunavut Secures New Training Centre for Airport Workers

GRISE FIORD, Nunavut (June 2, 2005) – Economic Development and Transportation Minister David Simailak announced today the establishment of a new technical training Centre for community airport workers. In collaboration with NAV CANADA, this initiative enables Nunavut Arctic College to provide training for observer communicators who work at community airports. The training will take place in Rankin Inlet.

The training centre is part of a new five-year Community Aerodrome Radio Services (CARS) Management Contract with NAV CANADA, the organization responsible for providing services such as air traffic control, flight information, and electronic aids to navigation at Canadian airports.

The CARS Management Contract is valued at \$26.7 million over five years.

“Observer communicators are the backbone of our air service to the communities,” says Simailak. “In partnership with NAV CANADA, we are pleased to be able to bring their training closer to home. This is another step towards the government’s goal of continued improvements for a safe, reliable and efficient air transportation service to Nunavut’s airline industry.”

The CARS contracts employ up to 100 observer communicators in Nunavut communities and cost the Government of Nunavut over \$4 million per year. The majority of the observer communicators are Nunavut beneficiaries.

“The Department of Economic Development and Transportation will be pursuing a new rate structure with our contractors that will better reflect the requirements at our local CARS operations thanks to the increased revenue that will be coming out of the new contract with NAV CANADA,” Simailak continued.

Other matters related to the CARS contracts, such as the certification process after school graduation and other related issues, have been addressed. The GN is helping to further support the observer communicators by moving aviation program officers to regional offices in Nunavut.

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