

News Release

Communities Work on Climate Change Adaptation Plan

IQALUIT, Nunavut (December 5, 2006) – The Adaptation Action in Arctic Communities workshop is being held in Iqaluit Dec.6 to 8 to help communities develop an adaptation plan to deal with the effects of climate change.

"Climate change poses major economic, environmental and social challenges to the people of Nunavut," said Environment Minister Patterk Netser. "We need to work together to develop an adaptation plan that will address the impacts of climate change on our social, environmental, economic and health sectors."

The Government of Nunavut is hosting the workshop with support from Natural Resources Canada, the City of Iqaluit and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. Representatives from communities across Nunavut, including Grise Fiord, Gjoa Haven, Kugluktuk, Arviat, Sanikiluaq and Iqaluit will attend.

The challenges of melting permafrost, coastal erosion and energy efficient housing will be discussed. Workshops participants will also focus on:

- incorporating climate change adaptation into community planning and decisionmaking
- incorporating local knowledge and scientific research into community adaptation planning
- raising awareness of adaptation options and existing adaptation tools
- discussing options of energy management and energy sources as opportunities for successful adaptation planning.

Average temperatures in the Arctic are rising at nearly twice the rate of the rest of the world and sea-ice cover is at its lowest recorded levels in nearly 30 years. If emissions of green house gases were to stop completely tomorrow, the environmental changes and impacts in the Arctic would be felt for many decades.

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For more information contact:

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