

News Release

Enactment of Family Abuse Intervention Act

IQALUIT, Nunavut (**December 6, 2007**) – To commemorate the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women, Premier and Justice Minister Paul Okalik today announced that Nunavut's new *Family Abuse Intervention Act (FAIA)*, passed unanimously by our Legislative Assembly in November 2006, will come into force on March 1, 2008.

"The solution to domestic violence does not come from outside the community, but exists within it," said Okalik. "This new law reflects Inuit societal values and also addresses family abuse at its earliest stages. We are very excited about *FAIA*'s new possibilities for community healing."

The aim of the *FAIA* is to provide Nunavummiut with the tools to holistically intervene to prevent abuse and provide a structure so that the root problems can be addressed. The *FAIA* will also focus on the immediate need for safety by providing community support systems for victims and their families who are in crisis because of family abuse.

The *Act* is designed to be community-driven, with efficient and effective processes and orders which are consistent with cultural values. This *Act* contains a Community Intervention Order which will allow service providers to offer culturally relevant counselling, to both the victim and the respondent, in an effort to return to community harmony.

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Communications 2007-58-C