

News Release

Nunavut to host Status of Women Ministers in 2007

IQALUIT, Nunavut (**February 06, 2007**) – The Government of Nunavut will host the next federal/provincial/territorial meeting of Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women, Minister Leona Aglukkaq announced today.

"We are pleased to be able to bring the meeting to Nunavut for the first time, especially since there will be a strong focus on Aboriginal women's issues," said Aglukkaq, who is responsible for the status of women in Nunavut. "Participants will be able to see for themselves how different the challenges are for women north of 60."

Aglukkaq was one of 13 provincial and territorial Status of Women Ministers meeting in Toronto on February 1, 2007 to review progress and plan future action-oriented strategies to address issues facing women.

Violence against women, women's economic independence and Aboriginal women's issues were identified as top priorities for joint action. Each jurisdiction also has its own priorities for furthering women's equality.

These priorities will form the basis for developing an action plan to collectively address these issues at the federal/provincial/territorial level. Ministers agreed that provinces and territories, along with the federal government, must move more effectively in these areas. For its part, Quebec will contribute to this action plan through the sharing of expertise and best practices.

Ministers also expressed concerns regarding changes to Status of Women Canada. Ministers will continue to collectively raise this issue with Status of Women Canada Minister, the Honourable Bev Oda, at the next federal/provincial/territorial meeting.

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