



## News Release

### Balanced Approach for Uranium Mining in Nunavut

**IQALUIT, Nunavut (June 4, 2007)** – Six principles announced today by Economic Development and Transportation Minister David Simailak will serve as a valuable guide for uranium mining in the territory.

“Building a strong and sustainable economy is a key objective of our government and fostering a robust exploration and mining industry is a central part of that plan,” said Simailak. “As we move forward we must retain a balanced and sustainable approach and that is what we will be doing in the case of uranium.”

Proven resources of 50,000 tonnes in the Kiggavik area west of Baker Lake make uranium a potential significant contributor to the territory’s growing mining sector. Growing demand for uranium and the recent rise in commodity prices have led to an increase in activity in the Nunavut uranium sector.

Under its principles the Government of Nunavut:

- Regards mining, including uranium mining, as an important potential source of revenues to meet the needs of Nunavut’s growing population and also as a potential source of employment and associated skills development for Nunavummiut.
- Recognizes that uranium development places special responsibilities on government because of the nature of uranium and its by-products, the history of its use for both peaceful and non-peaceful purposes, and its potential risks to human health and the environment.
- Understands that uranium development must have the support of Nunavummiut, especially in communities close to uranium development.
- Will support uranium development in Nunavut provided that the following conditions are satisfied:
  - a) Health and safety standards that are at least at Canada’s national standard must be assured for workers involved in uranium development in Nunavut;
  - b) Environmental standards must be assured, especially for the land, water and wildlife;
  - c) Nunavummiut must be the major beneficiaries of uranium development activities.
- Believes that nuclear power generation will be an important part of global strategies for ensuring energy supplies while reducing reliance on greenhouse gas-emitting fossil fuels.

- Believes that Canadian law and international agreements provide a reasonable level of assurance that uranium mined in Nunavut will be used for peaceful purposes.

The principles will serve as a framework for the development of a uranium development and mining management plan for the Government of Nunavut.

“Nunavummiut will be consulted during the development of our uranium management plan to ensure that we are fully prepared for the arrival of an era of new mining development on our land,” said Simailak.

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