



## News Release

### Premier Aariak Participates in Sovereignty Exercise

**EUREKA, Nunavut (April 17, 2009)** – Nunavut Premier Eva Aariak and Member of Legislative Assembly for Quttiktuq Ron Elliott today joined the Department of National Defence in Eureka to welcome the return of the Canadian Rangers from their *Operation NUNALIVUT* 2009 sovereignty patrols of Ellesmere Island.

“All Nunavummiut are committed to supporting Canada in exercising sovereignty in the Arctic,” said Premier Aariak. “I am honoured to be here today to welcome the return of the Canadian Rangers from their patrol of Ellesmere Island and to thank them for their dedication.”

“Nunavummiut live, work and patrol in the Canadian Arctic and we are proud to support Canada’s activities,” said MLA Elliott. “I support close cooperation between federal, territorial and local governments on issues that impact the High Arctic

*Operation NUNALIVUT* 2009 is one of three major sovereignty operations conducted every year by the Canadian Forces in Canada's North. Starting in late March, and ending on April 20, this year's operation saw two patrols head west from Eureka to circumnavigate Axel Heiberg island, and two patrols traversed to the Eastern coast of Ellesmere Island.

“Patrols such as *Operation NUNALIVUT* 2009 are important demonstrations of Canadian sovereignty and complement the historic Inuit use and occupancy of the land, waters, and ice of the Canadian Arctic,” said Premier Aariak.

In a statement to the Nunavut Legislative Assembly on March 17, 2009 Premier Aariak reiterated her commitment to asserting the role of Inuit and Nunavummiut as guardians of the Arctic and adopted the Northern Premiers’ strategic document, *A Northern Vision*.

Nunavut supports Canada’s collaboration with member states of the Arctic Council on environmental stewardship and management in the Arctic region.

- 30 -

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