



News Release

Improve Quality of Life and Apply Inuit Culture: Cabinet Retreat



Cape Dorset, Nunavut (February 14, 2009) – Improving the quality of life of Nunavummiut and building a government that represents the population it serves are the priorities of Nunavut’s new Cabinet.

Cabinet began the three-day strategic Retreat by developing a 20-year vision. “We will be guided by our Inuit values and culture,” said Premier Eva Aariak. “By 2030, Nunavut will be a place of healthy, secure and responsible individuals, families and communities.”

Nunavut Cabinet is committed to improving the quality of life of Nunavummiut. This includes reducing poverty and its impacts, helping the most vulnerable, and empowering community-based solutions.

Inuit culture, values, and wisdom must be better applied in everyday government decisions. “We need to become more holistic as a government,” said Premier Aariak. “Applying Inuit science, culture, values and wisdom from the very beginning will make our programs more holistic, more effective and better suited to our environment and people.”

A Report Card, or snapshot, of government’s current programs and services will be conducted to better understand what is working, what needs improvement, and what is not working at all. This review will be completed within the year and will guide a detailed work plan for the term of this government.

Cabinet recognized that a number of areas need immediate improvement and committed to the following: increasing capacity in its offices by changing the hiring process; creating an office to help the most vulnerable; visiting every community in Nunavut; and improving two-way communications with Nunavummiut, our communities and the world. These are among the priorities for delivery in the 2009/2010 fiscal year.

Cabinet met with members of the community, including the Hamlet Council, the Community Justice Committee, the District Education Authority, the Elder's Committee, the RCMP, GN staff and artists. As a result of these meetings, Cabinet agreed to working closer with communities and Inuit organizations, and encouraging community-based solutions.

This week's retreat is the first step in setting the agenda of Nunavut's third government and will be followed by a consultation with the regular members of the Legislative Assembly. A Full Caucus review of these priorities is tentatively scheduled for March, 2009.



Attachments: Report Card Backgrounder

Photo of Premier Aariak and Cabinet Ministers, credit Government of Nunavut

Photo of Cabinet and Cape Dorset Hamlet Council, credit Government of Nunavut

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