



News Release

Premier Re-assigns Department of Justice

Iqaluit, Nunavut (January 24, 2009) – In light of inappropriate comments made by Minister Louis Tapardjuk regarding domestic violence, Premier Eva Aariak has taken over the portfolio of Justice.

“No victim of violence should ever be faulted for initiating a conflict in a relationship,” said Premier Aariak. “Nothing can ever justify violence by a person of any gender in an intimate relationship.”

“I have spoken with Minister Tapardjuk and he has retracted his comments,” continued Aariak. “I believe he has learned from his mistake and can remain a productive member of Cabinet. However, I will be assuming the portfolio of Justice immediately.”

On November 30, 2005 Members of the Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a motion condemning domestic violence in all of its forms. One year later, members unanimously passed the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* to address abusive relationships before violence occurred.

This re-assignment of portfolio is temporary as the Leadership Forum to select an eighth member of Cabinet will occur on Monday, January 26, 2009 and swearing-in of the new Minister will occur on Thursday, January 29, 2009.

Attachment: Email from Minister Tapardjuk of January 21, 2009
Retraction from Minister Tapardjuk of January 24, 2009

- 30 -

For more information:

Karen Kabloona
Press Secretary
Office of Premier Eva Aariak
(867) 975-5059

ᐱᓚᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕ ᓂᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕ ᐱᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕ ᐃᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕ, ᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕ, ᐃᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕ
ᐃᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕ, www.gov.nu.ca.

News releases are available in Inuktitut, English, Inuinnaqtun and French on www.gov.nu.ca.

Tuhaqtaghat ittut Inuktitut, Qablunaatitut, Inuinnaqtun Uiviititullu talvani www.gov.nu.ca.

Les communiqués de presse sont disponibles en inuktitut, en anglais, en inuinnaqtun et en français à :
www.gov.nu.ca.