

Statement - By Nunavut Premier Eva Aariak

Rt. Honourable Romeo LeBlanc

July 3, 2009 Moncton, New Brunswick

On behalf of the government and Nunavummiut, I want to express my sincere condolences to the family of the Rt. Honourable Romeo LeBlanc, his wife Mme Fowler LeBlanc and their children, friends and all Acadians.

The passing of the Right Honourable Romeo LeBlanc was indeed a sad day for all Canadians and Nunavummiut.

There are not many Canadians or persons with a more distinguished public service record. He was an educator, broadcaster, and represented constituents in the House of Commons as Member of Parliament, served as Canada's longest Fisheries Minister, and also served as Governor General to Canada.

The Right Honourable LeBlanc recognized and celebrated National Aboriginal Day, a date he proclaimed while Governor General. He also held on March 29, 1999 a reception at Rideau Hall to mark the creation of Nunavut. He presented Nunavut with our Flag and Coat of Arms and was present for the first sitting of the Nunavut Legislature.

During his visit to the Nunavut Legislature, the Right Honourable Leblanc stated "The peaceful establishment of Nunavut provides a model of co-operation to the rest of Canada and to the world."

He left a legacy and will be greatly missed.

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