



News Release

Elders Advisory Committee meets for the first time

Iqaluit, Nunavut (May 15, 2009) – Members of the Elders Advisory Committee on the Environment met for the first time this week in Iqaluit. This committee, legislated under the *Wildlife Act*, was created to advise the Government of Nunavut on ways to incorporate Inuit knowledge into wildlife and environmental management.

“I’ve always placed a high value on the knowledge that elders possess when it comes to the environment. That’s the reason I’m pleased this advisory committee was created - it gives us a way to get elders together on a regular basis to provide advice,” said Environment Minister Daniel Shewchuk.

The members of the Elders Advisory Committee on the Environment are Guy Kakkiarniun of Kugaaruk, Bob Konana of Gjoa Haven, Tommy Pigalaak of Kugluktuk, Laisa Ningiuk of Grise Fiord, Paniloo Sanguya of Pond Inlet, Quvianatuliak Tapaungai of Cape Dorset, Peter Alageak of Arviat, Jacob Ikinilik of Baker Lake and John Kaunak of Repulse Bay.

The first meetings were productive, and mainly involved administrative and organizational matters. Minister Shewchuk says he is looking forward to the recommendations and insights the committee will bring to him as they continue to meet this year and during the coming years.

“I’m happy with the progress this committee made during its first set of meetings and I look forward to sitting down and working with them in the future,” said Minister Shewchuk.

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