

News Release

Minister's Task Force on the Review of the *Liquor Act* Convenes

Iqaluit, Nunavut (April 23, 2010) – The Hononrable Keith Peterson, Minister of Finance, today announced that the Minister's Task Force on the Review of the *Liquor Act* has met and begun its comprehensive review.

"I am pleased that the Task Force members were able to get together and chart a course of action to begin this important review" said Minister Peterson. "We are all aware of the profound effect alcohol has on Nunavummiut and I look forward to reviewing the task force recommendations. I am sure that those recommendations will promote the responsible use of alcohol in our territory, something to which I am deeply committed".

The ministerial task force is made up of ten individuals from organizations across Nunavut with a broad range of experience and expertise in order to best represent Nunavummiut. The first formal work of the Task Force was to elect Donna Adams, President of the Nunavut Qulliit Status of Women Council and resident of Rankin Inlet, as the Chairperson of the Task Force. Esau Tatatoapik, Chairperson of the Arctic Bay Alcohol Education Committee was chosen as Vice Chair.

Over the next twelve to eighteen months, the Task Force will provide individuals and organizations with an opportunity to share feedback and opinions on the *Liquor Act* and the overall issue of alcohol in our communities. During the recent two day planning session the Task Force also developed a research agenda, and created communications, consultation, and implementation tools to ensure the success of the review.

"This is a unique opportunity for all stakeholders to have input and to express their opinions regarding the responsible use of alcohol in our territory," said Chairperson Adams. "Task Force members will hold meetings and consultations in each and every community to provide all Nunavummiut with the opportunity to have their needs and points of view considered in this process and reflected in our recommendations to the Minister."

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