



News Release

Premier Aariak Participates in Sovereignty Exercise



Premier Eva Aariak speaks with a Canadian Ranger during *Operation NUNALIVUT 09* last year in Eureka.

ALERT, Nunavut (April 26, 2010) - Premier Eva Aariak, Minister Daniel Shewchuk, and Member of the Legislative Assembly for Quttiktuq Ron Elliot today participated in the closing of *Operation NUNALIVUT 10* sovereignty patrols in Alert, Nunavut.

“It is a pleasure to be here in Alert and to support one of the Joint Task Force North’s annual sovereignty operations in the North,” said Premier Aariak.

“Our country’s exercise of sovereignty over this vast territory, which makes up one-fifth of Canada’s landmass, is based on historic Inuit occupancy and use of its land, waters and resources, and a well-established Canadian title,” said Premier Aariak. “Exercises such as *Operation NUNALIVUT 10* reaffirm the joint territorial and federal commitment to support Canada’s claim to sovereignty.”

Operation NUNALIVUT 10 is one of three major Canadian Forces operations conducted each year in Canada’s High Arctic, and took place from April 6 to April 26, 2010 along the most northern tip of Ellesmere Island near CFS Alert, Ward Hunt Point and Alert Point.

“Nunavummiut are all very proud of our Canadian Rangers, who took part in this operation with reconnaissance and surveillance patrols,” said Minister Shewchuk. “Their intimate knowledge of the northern environment is invaluable to sovereignty exercises such as this one.”

Participants had an opportunity to welcome the return of the Ranger patrol, which included the Danish Sirius dog sled patrol team, view various displays, including that of the port inspection dive team, and to take part in the closing parade.

