

News Release

Premier Announces Changes in Public Service

IQALUIT, Nunavut (August 3, 2010) – Premier Eva Aariak today announced the following changes in the senior ranks of the Government of Nunavut.

Simon Awa will be appointed the Deputy Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth (CLEY). Mr. Awa has a wide and varied career in Nunavut, which includes working with and for municipal governments, with several Inuit organizations, and with the CBC. In the five years preceding the creation of the territory, he served as an Executive Director for the Nunavut Implementation Commission, with a mandate to make recommendations on the design of the Nunavut Government. Since the creation of the territory, Mr. Awa has held senior management roles with the Government of Nunavut, including with the Department of Justice until 2004 and primarily with Sustainable Development/Environment since that time. He is currently the Deputy Minister of Environment.

"Simon is a strong member of our executive management team, with varied experience and a passionate belief in the strength of our culture," said Premier Aariak. "I am confident that, with the help of many staff in the Department of CLEY and across the GN, he will effectively lead our government's efforts to improve our programs and workplaces by incorporating Inuit societal values."

Mr. Awa will be replaced by David Akeeagok, who will return to the Government of Nunavut after a year living in Arctic Bay closer to family. Mr. Akeeagok previously served as a Seasonal Park Warden for the Ellesmere Island National Park Reserve in the late 1980's, he also attended the Environmental Technology Program at the Nunavut Arctic College. With the Government of Nunavut Mr. Akeeagok has served as Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance, Assistant Deputy Minister of Decentralization, the Deputy Minister of CLEY, and the Deputy Minister of Community and Government Services.

"I am pleased that David has agreed to rejoin the Government of Nunavut's executive management team," said Premier Aariak, "He has a proven history as an individual who fosters teamwork and collaboration, both within our government and with external partners."

When the above appointments come into effect on September 1, 2010, all Deputy Head positions within the Government of Nunavut and the three Territorial Corporations will be filled.

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