

News Release

Nunavut delegates participate in UN climate change conference

IQALUIT, Nunavut (December 6, 2010) – The voice and interests of Nunavummiut will be heard at the UN Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico this week.

The Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Minister of Environment, and Nunavut delegates will be participating in climate change negotiations at the 16th *Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (COP16) this week in Cancun, Mexico.

"We will make sure that the voice and interests of Nunavummiut are included in COP16 through input to Canada's negotiators," said Minister Shewchuk. "The impacts of climate change are becoming increasingly visible here in Nunavut, which makes our presence at COP16 very important. We need to ensure that the world is aware of the consequences of climate change, and the need for immediate action."

Infrastructure damages due to thawing permafrost, and altered access to wildlife because of changing ice and weather patterns, are just two examples of the impacts already being experienced in Nunavut.

"The Government of Nunavut is committed to supporting Nunavummiut in continuing to rise to the challenges that climate change presents," said Minister Shewchuk. The Government of Nunavut is presently drafting a strategic document, *Upagiaqtavut*, which focuses on building adaptive capacity to cope with the impacts of climate change; it is expected to be released in 2011.

The 16th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change takes place in Cancun, Mexico from November 29 to December 10. These annual conferences bring signatories to the Framework Convention together to collaborate toward global greenhouse gas emission reductions and action against climate change.

Nunavut delegates will participate in the conference December 6-10 when they will meet with members of the Canadian delegation for discussions on adaptation and collaborative climate change initiatives. Minister Shewchuk will also attend a Climate Leader Summit December 6-8.

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