

News Release

Premier Announces Changes in Public Service

IQALUIT, Nunavut (March 11, 2010) – Premier Eva Aariak today announced the following changes in the senior ranks of the Government of Nunavut.

Janet Slaughter will be appointed as the Deputy Minister of Justice effective April 21, 2010. Ms. Slaughter was chosen from a list of candidates through a competitive executive search process.

"I am delighted to welcome Ms. Slaughter to the Government of Nunavut," said Premier Aariak. "I am confident the Department of Justice will find her a strong addition to the senior management team."

Holding degrees in arts, education, and law, Ms. Slaughter was called to bar in Ontario in 2000. She has served in a number of positions which required extensive management, human resource and leadership skills, including several years as Chair of the Board of Directors of Mountain Equipment Co-op. Over the past three years Ms. Slaughter has worked for the Nunavut Legal Services Board as a family lawyer. She has worked in all three regions of Nunavut on behalf of her clients. Ms. Slaughter's appointment follows the departure of Koovian Flanagan, who left the Government of Nunavut in September 2009.

"Ms. Slaughter's knowledge of Nunavut will be a tremendous asset to our Department," said Minister of Justice Keith Peterson. "Her common sense approach to getting things done and her focus on communities will greatly benefit all Nunavummiut."

David Omilgoitok, who has served as the Deputy Minister of Human Resources, Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs, and Secretary to Cabinet, has decided to leave the employ of the Government of Nunavut, for personal and family reasons. He is one of the longest-serving Deputy Heads in the government. Upon his departure on July 1, 2010, he will have served as a Deputy Minister for exactly 10 years.

"I want to thank David for 22 years of public service with the Government of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. He was clearly extremely committed to the government not just as his employer, but more generally to Nunavummiut as a public servant," said Premier Aariak, "I thank him on behalf of the entire Government for his many contributions and wish him well in all his future endeavours, including many fishing and hunting expeditions in his home community of Cambridge Bay."

Effective July 2, 2010, Mr. Omilgoitok will be replaced as the Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs by Aluki Rojas, who is currently serving as the Deputy Minister of Human Resources. Ms. Rojas has a Masters Degree in Canadian Studies and Native Studies and is fluently trilingual in Inuktitut, English, and Spanish. She has been a Government of Nunavut employee for six years, including over three years as a Deputy Minister. "I look forward to working more closely with Aluki in this new role where she will be advising and assisting me on a regular basis as we strive to enhance Nunavut's recognition in Canada and the world," said Premier Aariak.

The position of Deputy Minister of Culture, Language, Elders, and Youth, previously filled by Phoebe Hainnu, is currently advertised and open for competition due to Ms. Hainnu's personal circumstances. "It is very encouraging to hear that Phoebe, through her tenacious nature, has already made much progress and we continue to wish her a speedy recovery," said Premier Aariak.

The position of Deputy Minister of Human Resources will also be filled through a competitive executive search process over the coming months.

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For More Information Contact:

Emily Woods Press Secretary Office of the Premier (867) 975-5059