

News Release

Nunavut gains through continued federal collaboration

IQALUIT, Nunavut (March 5, 2010) – While the Government of Canada's March 3 Speech from the Throne emphasizes Canada as a northern country, and promises to grant northerners a greater say through territorial devolution, the March 4 Budget provides valuable fiscal certainty to Nunavut, and confirms continued federal focus on the North.

"The federal Speech from the Throne brought the welcome news for all Nunavummiut that Canada is willing to move forward with devolution, the transfer of jurisdiction from Canada to Nunavut, which will allow us to make decisions that affect our land, water and resources," said Premier Aariak. "Nunavut has a mandate and a negotiator, and we are looking forward to working together with Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. to make devolution a reality for our territory," said Premier Aariak.

The Honourable Keith Peterson, Minister of Finance, commented on other welcome news from the federal Budget. "I am pleased that the federal government recognizes the need to manage its fiscal health without compromising the major transfers to our government," said Minister Peterson. "Although we will await further details," said Minister Peterson, "initiatives announced in the federal budget will provide a stable social and economic environment for Nunavut over the coming year."

Despite the overall emphasis on restraint, the Budget also provides for ongoing sources of funding for Nunavut, particularly for health care.

"With the cost of health care in the North, we certainly appreciate the two year extension of Territorial Health System Sustainability Initiative (THSSI), as well as the continuation of several other health-related programs," said Premier Aariak.

Other budgetary measures of particular interest to Nunavummiut include: additional funding for the design of a High Arctic Research Station in a Nunavut community, increased funding to reform and enhance the Food Mail Program, additional funding to survivors of residential school, funding to support community-based environmental monitoring, and changes to credit unions, which could potentially provide services in smaller communities.

"In the spirit of our mandate, *Tamapta/CL^cC: Building our future together*, we are pleased that, through our continued collaboration, the Government of Canada recognizes the valuable contribution that Nunavummiut are making to our nation," said Premier Aariak.

###

For More Information Contact:

Emily Woods
Press Secretary
Office of the Premier

(867) 975-5059
ewoods@gov.nu.ca

へや^ つくしゃく つうしゃく ヘケレマ なっちくてゃ ム かつうゃし 」 つら、ちゅう うゅう へん なってゃ トム ふつっ ト へん いっと のった www.gov.nu.ca.

News releases are available in Inuktitut, English, Inuinnaqtun and French on www.gov.nu.ca.

Tuhaqtaghat ittut Inuktitut, Qablunaatitut, Inuinnaqtun Uiviititullu talvani www.gov.nu.ca.

Les communiqués de presse sont disponibles en inuktitut, en anglais, en inuinnaqtun et en français à: www.gov.nu.ca.

Communications 2010-13-C