

News Release

Government of Nunavut Supports Implementation of Nunavut Land Claims Agreement

IQALUIT, Nunavut (May 13, 2010) – The Government of Nunavut is pleased that the Honorable Minister Chuck Strahl, federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs has introduced Bill C-25 in the House of Commons. The federal bill titled the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* was introduced and given first reading in the House of Commons on May 12, 2010.

Since 2002 the Government of Nunavut has been working with the Government of Canada, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Regional Inuit Organizations, the Institutions of Public Government, and the mining industry to complete this legislation. It is an important step in establishing the land management system created by the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

The bill provides details of the powers and functions of the Nunavut Planning Commission and the Nunavut Impact Review Board, two important institutions of public government created through the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

"The legislation will provide more regulatory certainty for land and resource management in Nunavut and contribute to self reliance and additional responsibility in future governance for Nunavummiut," said the Honorable Peter Taptuna, Minister of Economic Development Transportation. "We applaud the work among the land claims partners and look forward to the bill receiving assent in the House of Commons and the Senate."

"One of the priorities of our government mandate *Tamapta/CL^cC: Building our future together* is to promote sustainable economic development and environmental stewardship, said the Honorable Daniel Shewchuk, Minister of Environment. "This bill supports that goal by helping to streamline Nunavut's regulatory process and enables the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) and the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) to effectively carry out their duties for land use planning and environmental assessment."

Improving the regulatory system is another significant step towards providing Nunavummiut with decision-making power over the pace and magnitude of resource and land development in Nunavut. It will contribute to Nunavut taking on even more authority over the administration of land in the coming years.

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