



## News Release

## Premiers of Nunavut and Manitoba meet on joint priorities

Rankin Inlet, Nunavut (September 1, 2010) – The Honourable Eva Aariak, Premier of Nunavut, today welcomed the Honourable Greg Selinger, Premier of Manitoba, to the community of Rankin Inlet. In accordance with the *Manitoba-Nunavut Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation and Development* (2000), the Premier of Nunavut and the Premier of Manitoba meet at least once every two years in the spirit of collaboration to advance areas of mutual interest.

"Nunavut and Manitoba share more than a border," said Premier Aariak. "We share family, cultural, trade, and transportation ties, as well as six Memoranda of Understanding in areas such as energy, tourism, and community economic development. I am pleased to welcome Premier Selinger to Rankin Inlet to discuss our joint priorities, and to develop an action plan that will help us to achieve our shared goals," said Premier Aariak.

The meeting provided the occasion to streamline the existing MOU's by consolidating them into a single Memorandum of Understanding with one Nunavut-Manitoba steering committee, co-chaired by representatives of both Governments. This master agreement will allow for a more focused approach with practical outcomes. The steering committee will work closely on an implementation plan on the following priorities as identified by both Premiers:

- Health, including opportunities for enhanced services and improved patient care through collaboration between the Department of Health and Social Services (HSS) and the Churchill Regional Health Authority (CRHA);
- Renewable energy, including sharing best practices and technology;
- Economic growth, through cooperation, consultation, joint tourism development and marketing projects;
- Transportation, through initial consultations on a cost-benefit study on a Manitoba-Nunavut all-weather road; and,
- Exchange opportunities, in areas of culture, education, and sporting activities.

Premier Selinger took the opportunity to invite Premier Aariak to the Manitoba's Arctic Gateway Summit -"Northern Directions", which will take place in Winnipeg on November 8-10, 2010. "Manitoba's goal in hosting the Summit is to bring together public, private and non-governmental stakeholders to collaborate in exploring the emerging opportunities in the Arctic region," said Premier Selinger. "I welcome the opportunity to be here in Rankin Inlet with Premier Aariak to learn more about the issues we share in common with Nunavummiut."

Manitoba's Arctic Summit is designed to complement other Arctic initiatives, such as the federal Arctic Infrastructure Conference (September 2010 – Iqaluit) and Hudson Bay Arctic Summit (April 2011 – Iqaluit), which will explore the issues of ecological sustainability and Arctic governance.

###

## **For More Information Contact:**

Emily Woods Press Secretary Premier's Office 867-975-5059 Jay Branch Director of Communications Government of Manitoba 204-945-1494