News Release

Minister Shewchuk promotes Nunavut products in China

IQALUIT, Nunavut (January 19, 2011) – Nunavut's seal, fur and seafood products were promoted in China last week by the Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Minister of Environment who visited Beijing along with Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Gail Shea, and Newfoundland Fisheries Minister, Clyde Jackman.

"The Cooperative Edible Seal Products Arrangement was initialed last week but more important to Nunavut was our focus on fur and seafood markets," said Minister Shewchuk.. "The visit included a major fur show, where dressed and dyed seal skins and wild fur from Nunavut were on display, keeping with our Government's commitment to promote Nunavut seal and fur products to new markets."

Nunavut's fishing industry produces top quality Greenland halibut (turbot), shrimp and Arctic char for consumers throughout the world and this visit provided an opportunity to promote Nunavut's seafood resources to major buyers in China.

Nunavut fishes close to 10,000 tonnes of Greenland halibut and more than 10,600 tonnes of shrimp annually from waters adjacent to Nunavut. Nunavut is also the largest producer of wild Arctic char in the world, with commercial production of more than 75 tonnes on an annual basis.

"China demonstrated a significant level of interest in both Nunavut's fur and fish products which could potentially develop into real opportunities for the fishing and sealing industries," said Minister Shewchuk.

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For More Information Contact:

Agnes Simonfalvy
Department of Environment
Tel : 867-975-7720
Email: asimonfalvy@gov.nu.ca

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