



Statement

Premier Aariak meets with Prime Minister Harper

February 23, 2012
IQALUIT, Nunavut

Premier Eva Aariak today released the following statement:

“I am pleased to welcome Prime Minister Harper back to Nunavut and to have an opportunity to continue my on-going dialogue with him in person.

The Prime Minister recognizes that devolution is of utmost importance to give Nunavummiut control over our future. During our meeting, the Prime Minister assured me of his personal interest in seeing this file move forward and I am optimistic that I will be able to provide more details soon.

I also raised Nunavut’s historic and worsening infrastructure gap. I pressed the Prime Minister for the need for a long-term federal commitment to Nunavut’s infrastructure that will unleash economic growth and stimulate a more robust private sector.

Finally, I spoke to the Prime Minister about the critical need for new housing construction in Nunavut to alleviate some of the most crowded conditions in Canada. Together Canada and Nunavut have built close to 1,000 new units since 2006 but 3,600 more are needed to ease the current backlog, as well as another 90 per year to match our population growth. The Government of Canada, under the leadership of Prime Minister Harper, has been a good partner with Nunavut in our efforts to alleviate the housing crisis. I will continue to bring the issue of housing and other crucial issues for Nunavut, to the Prime Minister’s attention.

I would like to thank the Prime Minister for his personal commitment that places Nunavut’s priorities high on the national agenda.”

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