

News Release

For Immediate Release

GN Restructures to Strengthen Services

IQALUIT, Nunavut (July 11, 2012) – The Government of Nunavut (GN) is restructuring to strengthen services for families and increase efficiency.

"Like any large organization, the Government of Nunavut must periodically fine-tune operations in order to align with its priorities and find new efficiencies," said Premier Eva Aariak. "Nunavummiut have made it clear that a greater emphasis must be placed on strengthening services for our families and helping those most at-risk."

"A new Department of Family Services will be established by April 1, 2013," said Minister of Health and Social Services, Keith Peterson. "This will give social services the attention it needs and will bring together resources that are spread out among different departments. The creation of this department also responds to a report released last year by the Auditor General of Canada, which identified areas where the GN can improve programs and services for children, youth and families."

In order to oversee the transition to a new department, a Deputy Minister of Family Services has been appointed, effective August 1, 2012. Aluki Rojas, the current Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs will be the new Deputy Minister of Family Services. Ms. Rojas will work within the Department of Health and Social Services until the transition to the new department is complete on April 1, 2013, at which time she will lead the new Department of Family Services.

"Aluki Rojas is one of the Government of Nunavut's most experienced Deputy Ministers, and over the past 5 years has led the Departments of Human Resources, Environment, and Intergovernmental Affairs," said Premier Eva Aariak. "A trilingual Beneficiary with a master's degree in Canadian studies, Ms. Rojas will ensure the transition to Family Services has the strong leadership, experience, and vision it needs to succeed."

Nunavut's 2012-2013 Budget Address announced the government's plan to make structural changes to better serve Nunavummiut and provide more effective, efficient and economic government operations. The government will be making additional changes to the government structure.

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2

Effective April 1, 2013, the Department of Human Resources' core functions will be moved into the Departments of Finance and Executive. These changes are being made to integrate functions that support government operations and to strengthen both financial management and administrative services.

"We value the contributions GN employees make every day," said Monica EII, Minister of Human Resources. "The restructuring will not result in job loss or relocation of employees between communities. We anticipate that the changes to government will help our employees to improve services for Nunavummiut."

Other changes are outlined on the backgrounder attached. GN services and programs will not be affected during this transition.

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Backgrounder

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Effective July 1, 2012

- Sports and Recreation from the Department of Culture & Heritage to the Department of Community and Government Services.
- Piqqusilirivvik from the Department of Culture & Heritage to Nunavut Arctic College.
- Energy Secretariat from the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to the Department of Economic Development & Transportation.

Effective April 1, 2013

- The new Department of Family Services established, including the following services and offices:
 - Social Services from Health and Social Services
 - Income Support from Education
 - Social Advocacy Office from Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs
 - o Anti-Poverty Secretariat from Economic Development & Transportation
 - Homelessness from Nunavut Housing Corporation
- Core functions of the Department of Human Resources move to the Department of Finance and the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.