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News Release

For Immediate Release

Government of Nunavut welcomes new federal legislation to implement the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement

November 6, 2012

IQALUIT, Nunavut – The Government of Nunavut welcomed the tabling in Parliament of new federal legislation aimed at strengthening the planning of resource development in Nunavut and assessing the potential impacts. Bill C-47, the *Northern Jobs and Growth Act,* was tabled in Ottawa on Tuesday.

Bill C-47 includes the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NUPPAA), which will enhance the regulatory process in Nunavut and better define the role of the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) and the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC). Both NIRB and the NPC were established in 1997 as institutions of public government. Each has a board made up of equal numbers of Inuit and government representatives.

“This is an important milestone in establishing an effective and streamlined regime for Inuit and government to manage resource development in Nunavut together,” said Nunavut Premier, Eva Aariak. “Bill C-47 will make decision making about land and resource management much clearer and pave the way for the seamless transfer of these responsibilities from Canada to the Government of Nunavut under devolution.”

“We hope that Bill C-47 will move quickly through Parliament to provide Nunavummiut and industry with the certainty they need for the planning and assessing resource development projects,” said Peter Taptuna, Nunavut’s Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. “This is essential to attract the investment needed for Nunavut to continue to develop a strong and diversified economy.”

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The Government of Nunavut collaborated extensively with Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on the legislation, which is required under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. “The new federal legislation will make the work and decisions of the Nunavut Impact Review Board and the Nunavut Planning Commission clear, consistent and predictable,” said James Arreak, Nunavut’s Minister of the Environment. “It will fulfill a major commitment that Canada made under the Nunavut land claim.”

The NUPPAA was previously introduced in 2010 as Bill-25 but fell off the order paper after first reading in Parliament when the 2011 federal elections were called. Since then, the Government of Nunavut has been urging the Government of Canada to re-introduce the legislation.

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