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Building *Nunavut* Together
Nunavut iiquatigiingniq
Bâtir le *Nunavut* ensemble

Statement

Celebrating 20th Anniversary of the Nunavut Land Claim

July 9, 2013
Iqaluit, NU

Nunavut Premier, Eva Aariak today released the following statement:

“It is a pleasure to join together with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and all of our partners to celebrate this important day. It is wonderful to see Nunavummiut coming together to celebrate Nunavut and all of our achievements. I am pleased that Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Bernard Valcourt, came to witness our celebrations in Iqaluit.

As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the land claim, we hope this marks the beginning of a new dialogue between Canada, the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik that will reconnect with the incredible spirit of partnership that is at the heart of our land claim.

When the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement was signed in 1993, it was not intended to mark the end of a difficult set of negotiations. Instead it was meant as a new beginning – to rewrite the relationship between Inuit and government.

It is deeply unfortunate that disagreements over the implementation of the land claim have ended up in court. Today, we have a new opportunity to sit down, and through our commitment to piliriqatigiinniq, chart a course that will lead to a better future for all Nunavummiut.

I would like to wish everyone across our great land a Happy Nunavut Day as we take part in festivities in our home communities.”

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