Statement

Northwest Territories Congratulated on Devolution Deal

June 26, 2012
Iqaluit, NU

Premier Eva Aariak released the following statement:

"On behalf of all Nunavummiut I would like to extend my congratulations to the people of the Northwest Territories for signing your historic devolution agreement in Inuvik.

As resource development increases across the Arctic, it is essential that decisions over where and how development will take place are made closer to home.

Devolving control over Crown lands and resources from the federal to the territorial governments will help make that happen. Devolution will also help to keep more of the benefits of resource development in the North and enable the territories to be more self-reliant by spurring economic development.

The devolution agreement signed in Inuvik has been many years in the making. By adapting elements of the Northwest Territories agreement that fit with our situation, we will be able to focus our time and energy on the issues that make Nunavut unique within Canada.

The signing of the NWT devolution agreement is an inspiration to Nunavummiut as we prepare to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and Nunavut's fourteenth year as a territory. Devolution is the next great chapter in the building of Nunavut and our efforts to strengthen the self-reliance that is at the heart of our way of life."

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