

News Release

For Immediate Release

GN establishes Department of Family Services

IQALUIT, Nunavut (March 28, 2013) – Effective April 1, 2013, the new Department of Family Services will commence operations. Premier Eva Aariak announced that Minister Monica Ell will be the Minister of the new department.

"Over the past nine months, our Government has restructured to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of government services, while improving our made-in Nunavut approach," said Premier Eva Aariak. "I am pleased to announce that on April 1, all social services will be focused and housed within the new Department of Family Services under the strong leadership of Minister Monica Ell."

"I am looking forward to the new challenge and working with the Family Services staff," said Minister Monica Ell.

As well, 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. Minister Keith Peterson will continue to hold the portfolios of Health and Finance.

"I would like to thank Minister Peterson for his leadership and oversight that led to the creation of the new Family Services department," said Premier Eva Aariak. "We now require Minister Peterson's experience and knowledge to focus on leading the two key departments of Finance and Health."

The mission of the Department of Family Services is to provide a one-window access to a range of programs and services to support families which will align government priorities in order to achieve the government's *Tamapta* mandate.

The Government announced it was considering changes to the structure of government operations in the 2011 budget, and announced it was examining the division of Health and Social Services in the 2012 budget. Changes reflect a report tabled by the Auditor General of Canada at the Legislative Assembly in 2011 entitled, "Child, Youth and Family Programs and Services in Nunavut". The report identified the need to improve programs and services for children, youth and families.

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Backgrounder:

Effective April 1, 2013

The new Department of Family Services is officially established, including the following services and offices:

- $\circ~$ Social Services from Health and Social Services
- o Income Support and Career Development from Education

 $\circ\,$ Social Advocacy Office (Gender Equality, Disability, Children and Youth) from Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

- o Anti-Poverty Secretariat from Economic Development & Transportation
- o Homelessness from Nunavut Housing Corporation

The Department of Finance will include the following functions from the Department of Human Resources:

• Staffing, job evaluation, employee relations and policy

The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs will include the following functions from the Department of Human Resources:

o Training and Development and organizational design