News Release

For Immediate Release

Poverty Reduction Plan to Emphasize Collaboration

IQALUIT, Nunavut (November 28, 2014) – The Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction today finished its fall 2014 gathering, and participants reviewed the Five Year Poverty Reduction Action Plan. The plan will be reviewed in detail with communities over the next two months, looking for approval early in the New Year.

The theme of this year's meeting was justice and community healing, with an emphasis on holistic approaches to justice and increased support for community interventions. Participants agreed there should be more initiatives for community-led justice.

The Roundtable was co-chaired by Jeannie Uqyuk, Minister of Family Services and Minister responsible for Poverty Reduction for the Government of Nunavut, and by Cathy Towtongie, President of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.

"An important objective of the Government of Nunavut is to support the development of self-reliance and a spirit of optimism and self-confidence in our people," said Minister Jeannie Ugyuk. "This commitment requires connection and participation from all our communities. The work of the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction is a critical aspect of this priority."

"We have made great strides towards the finalization of a Five Year Poverty Reduction Action Plan. The Roundtable brings together partners from across Nunavut and unites us in action on fighting poverty. I am encouraged with our open conversations and our commitment to action, and am pleased that the roundtable will be involved in the review of the income support program," said President Towtongie.

The Roundtable provides leadership, oversight, expertise, and organizational and financial support in identifying and taking action against poverty. Roundtable participants include representatives from the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., as well as elders, youth Inuit leadership, non-profit organizations, representatives from each community, and delegates from the Nunavut business community.

The next gathering of the Roundtable is expected in the early spring of 2015, with review and reform of social assistance as the theme.

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Media Contact:

Andres Ibanez
Communications Specialist
Department of Family Services
867-975-7821
aibanez@gov.nu.ca

Kerry McCluskey
Director of Communications
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
867-975-4914
kmccluskey@tunngavik.com

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