

News Release

For Immediate Release

Consultations begin on strengthening tourism and travelers' safety

IQALUIT, Nunavut (September 22, 2015) – The Government of Nunavut is holding public consultations across the territory to gain valuable input on how to strengthen the Travel and Tourism Act (TTA). The aim is to provide clearer standards and guidelines for quality services and travelers' safety.

"Tourism is of great importance for Nunavut, and we want Nunavummiut to help shape and enhance how the industry moves forward," said Economic Development and Transportation Minister Monica Ell. "We want Nunavummiut to share their ideas for the new Travel and Tourism Act to make our land a better place for everyone involved in this sector. We want the tourism industry to provide greater economic opportunities to communities while ensuring quality service for visitors."

The review is also being conducted to reduce barriers for tourism growth, to help keep travelers safe, and to ensure that tourism creates business opportunities and other benefits for Nunavummiut.

The TTA provides rules and guidelines for the tourism industry including, but not limited to:

- tour operators like outfitters and guides
- accommodations like hotels, bed and breakfasts, and remote lodges
- cruise ship visits and other marine tourism

Community and stakeholder input is being gathered so those involved in tourism have a say in how the law will change. At the public meetings, participants can find out why changes are needed, what is being proposed and provide their thoughts about how the changes will affect various parts of the sector, Nunavummiut and communities.

Public meetings are scheduled for:

Date	Community	Location
September 22–23	lqaluit	September 22 – Nunavut Trade Show
•	•	September 23 – Hotel Arctic Caribou Room
September 25	Pangnirtung	Hamlet Office
September 28–29	Rankin Inlet	Atuqtuarvik Corporation Board Room
September 30	Naujaat	Community Centre
October 5	Pond Inlet	Community Centre
October 15	Cambridge Bay	Community Centre
October 16	Gjoa Haven	Community Centre

The goal is to introduce the new TTA in the legislative assembly in early 2016.

To fill out a survey or to get involved in the consultation, visit www.gov.nu.ca/edt or write to info@NunavutTTA.ca.

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Backgrounder to follow



Backgrounder

The current Travel and Tourism Act (TTA) is not a "made-in-Nunavut" law, nor has it been amended since 1992. When Nunavut became a territory, the government adopted the laws that existed for the Northwest Territories. Our tourism industry and needs are unique, and laws need to better reflect our situation.

There are currently three regulations under the TTA:

- 1. the Guide Exemption Regulations
- 2. the Outfitter Regulations
- the Tourist Establishment Regulations

The current Act provides authority to create regulations applicable to guides, outfitters and tourist establishments. The context and practices of the tourism industry in Nunavut have changed over the last 23 years. As a result, the current TTA is outdated in certain areas and fails to adequately ensure that:

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement is reflected in the provisions.
- Regulations reflect public safety considerations.
- Community perspectives are taken into account.
- Economic development opportunities for Nunavummiut are maximized.
- The growing role of marine vessels in Nunavut's tourism industry is addressed.

Sivumut Abluqta

The Government of Nunavut has identified the tourism industry as one of its key sectors to drive economic growth. Tourism has the potential to fulfill a long-standing vision of economic diversity. It will also offer more equitable distribution of wealth to smaller communities while enshrining and celebrating Inuit culture and values.

Tunngasaiji: a Tourism Strategy for Nunavummiut

Launched in 2013, this strategy calls for the development of a tourism sector that provides economic opportunities to communities while ensuring quality service for visitors to Nunavut. *Tunngasaiji*'s priorities include the development of tourism-related attractions, products and services; an increase in Inuit participation and benefits in the tourism sector; a focus on skills development and training, and a framework for

engaging communities in planning and development. It seeks to achieve consistent, sustainable growth in the tourism industry which can partially be achieved by strengthening the legislative and regulatory environment in Nunavut. Amendments to the TTA are required to fully realize this vision for tourism in Nunavut.