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Building Nunavut Together
Nunavuliuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

Statement

Premier Taptuna reacts to the 2016 federal budget

March 23, 2016
Iqaluit, NU

"I am pleased that the federal government has taken steps to invest in Northern and Indigenous communities, and shares our vision of a strong, healthy and prosperous Nunavut.

The challenges facing Nunavut and Canada's northern communities are unique. Addressing issues like housing, infrastructure, health and mental health care, community safety and policing, child welfare, and education are critical to our well-being.

The federal government's investment in infrastructure projects in Nunavut is key to ensuring our economic prosperity. We are also pleased to see that the government has committed to accelerate spending for infrastructure projects, including up to $25.3 million from the Small Communities Fund for five recreational and sport facility projects in Nunavut, including a cultural centre in Cape Dorset, repairs for the Cambridge Bay Arena and the Iqaluit Aquatic Centre.

We welcome the increased investment in housing through the Investments in the Affordable Housing program. Improving the accessibility to housing for our residents is of great importance, and is one of our highest priorities.

The Government of Nunavut is also pleased that the Northern Resident's Deduction has increased. This will provide additional tax relief for Nunavummiut.

The new Canada Child Benefit will improve the lives of low-income Nunavummiut with large families.

I look forward to monitoring the increased investment to Nutrition North and broadband internet in rural and remote communities, in the hope that they will have direct benefits for the people of Nunavut.

Finally, we are encouraged to see the overall investments in a variety of areas in support of clean energy and climate change, which affects all Nunavummiut. Canada's

climate change goals must be conducted in a way that does not significantly impact northern costs of living, undermine food security, or threaten our emerging economies. We hope that this renewed commitment to energy will begin the crucial dialogue with regards to replacing our aging diesel plants.

We will continue to work with the federal government to communicate our critical infrastructure needs. As I have said before, investment in Nunavut is good for business and responsible nation-building for Canada, and for all Canadians.

The Government of Canada has been, and will continue to be, a key partner in creating the foundation for Nunavut's success. The Government of Nunavut will continue to work closely with our federal colleagues on issues that are important to Nunavummiut. We must work together to ensure economic development and prosperity, to invest in infrastructure, and to protect and promote the culture of Nunavut."

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Media Contact:
Catriona Macleod
Director of Communications
Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs
867-975-6049
cmacleod@gov.nu.ca

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