

News Release

For Immediate Release

Premier Akeeagok welcomes Nunavut Inuit to executive-level positions

Iqaluit, Nunavut (September 22, 2023) – Since the Government of Nunavut (GN) announced the creation of Associate Deputy Minister positions for all departments and agencies in early 2023, five additional qualified Nunavut Inuit are in place by direct appointments or transfer assignments.

“Our ambition to encourage and increase the representation of Nunavut Inuit in the highest levels of our public service is moving forward,” said Premier P.J. Akeeagok. “These mentorship positions at the executive level mean that each of the qualified additions to our teams will have the opportunity to grow in experience and skills and take on the challenge of higher-ranking roles in the future.”

The government's intention, when it enabled the creation of these positions, was to fulfill a commitment in the *Katuujiluta* mandate – to work toward a representative public service as per Article 23 of the Nunavut Agreement.

The GN this year welcomed:

- in February, Associate Deputy Minister Henry Coman at the Devolution Secretariat of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIA). Most recently the Assistant Deputy Minister for the Department of Environment, Mr. Coman spent 25 years with the RCMP. During this time, he graduated from the Akitsiraq law program and was called to the Nunavut bar in 2009.
- in March, Associate President Juanie Pudluk at Nunavut Housing Corporation, who moved into the position from Director of Infrastructure. Mr. Pudluk is an electrical engineer with a breadth of experience in project management.
- in July, Associate Deputy Minister Christine Ellsworth at Justice, who previously acted as Assistant Deputy Minister of Court Operations after completing the Nunavut Law Program with a Juris Doctor. Ms. Ellsworth was called to the Nunavut bar in 2022.

- in August, Associate Deputy Minister Sandy Kownak at Family Services, who previously worked for the department as Assistant Deputy Minister. Her 25-year career spans government and Inuit organizations and she has a history of community engagement of more than three decades, during which she has actively served on multiple boards of directors.
- in September, Associate Deputy Minister Jacqueline Curley at Economic Development and Transportation, who previously provided recruitment and staffing services for the Nunavut Teacher Education Program at Nunavut Arctic College. She brings more than 25 years of workforce development experience and five years of senior management experience to her new position.

“I thank all these skilled and knowledgeable people for their service to Nunavummiut,” said Premier Akeeagok. “Their contributions help in the fulfillment of this government’s *Katujjiluta* mandate.”

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