Statement – By Nunavut Premier Eva Aariak

Premier Aariak welcomes Minister Duncan

August 11, 2010

IQALUIT, Nunavut

Premier Eva Aariak today released the following statement:

On behalf of the Government of Nunavut, I would like to welcome Mr. John Duncan to the portfolio of Indian and Northern Affairs.

The INAC portfolio is challenging in that it takes an enormous amount of dedication and first-hand experience in order to truly understand the issues at hand. I look forward to welcoming Minister Duncan to Nunavut in the near future, and to providing him with the information and support necessary to best represent the interests of Nunavummiut.

In particular, I look forward to discussing with Minister Duncan issues which continue to be of great importance to Nunavut. Priorities for our territory include developing our infrastructure and solving our housing crisis. Also, I cannot understate the importance of devolution to the future of our territory; we do not expect devolution to happen overnight, however look forward to engaging the new minister and the federal government in negotiations.

Finally, I would like to thank Minister Strahl for his work with the portfolio. I enjoyed a close working relationship with Minister Strahl and appreciate his engagement on important issues, and his willingness to examine approaches to solving our infrastructure needs. I wish him the best of luck in his new portfolio, and look forward to discussing with him Nunavut's transportation needs.

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