Statement

Premier Reacts to Canada’s Arctic Foreign Policy

August 20, 2010
IQALUIT, Nunavut

Premier Eva Aariak today released the following statement:

“I was pleased to read the statement on Canada’s Arctic Foreign Policy released today by Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon. This document clarifies the direction and priorities of the Government of Canada for the north, providing a framework in which Nunavut can now fully engage to move forward.”

The overall policy statement is consistent with our Northern Vision, which was released by the three territorial governments in 2007. Of great importance to Nunavut, we acknowledge the commitment to work with and fully engage northerners. Meaningful consultation will be essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

Of the four pillars outlined in this document, the one that speaks most loudly for Nunavut is the last: “improving and devolving Northern governance.” This document clearly identifies the importance of the “human dimension” and nowhere is this more important than in gaining control over our Crown Land, natural resources, and the benefits that come from development activity.

We note and welcome the important statements on strengthening the role of the Arctic Council, planning for Canada’s role as chair in 2013 and addressing its structural needs. Nunavut commits to a continued role in the Arctic Council Advisory Committee and anticipates a continued place in the Canadian delegation at the 2011 ministerial meetings.

This key, as always, lies in the implementation, and I look forward to working with the Government of Canada as we continue to grow the true north, strong and free.”

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