



Minister's Statement

No. _____

Date _____

Hon. Eva Aariak
Premier of Nunavut

Retirement of Senator Willie Adams

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honourable Willie Adams, who after 32 years of service is retiring on June 10, 2009 from the Senate of Canada. Together with all Nunavummiut, I acknowledge his good work, and thank him for representing the North and –more recently-- Nunavut in the Senate.

Senator Adams was appointed to the Senate by the former Prime Minister, the late Pierre Elliott Trudeau, as the first Inuk Senator in Canada. He served first as Senator for the NWT from April 5, 1977, and since 1999 as Senator for Nunavut. And now after many years of public life and working on behalf of Inuit, and Nunavummiut, Willie Adams retires as the most senior senator.

Senator Adams was an electrician by trade. As a business person, his entrepreneurial ventures have included serving as owner of Kudlik

Electric Ltd., Kudlik Construction Ltd., Polar Bear Cave Investments and Nanuq Inn at Rankin Inlet, as well as Umingmak Expediting Ltd. in Ottawa.

In addition to his role in the Senate of Canada, Senator Adams' career in public service also included being elected as a member in the Northwest Territories Council from 1970 to 1974.

Mr. Speaker, it is a reflection of the Senator's commitment to Nunavut and his continuing hard work that, less than two weeks before his retirement, he participated in the events around the LaFontaine-Baldwin lecture by Siila Watt-Cloutier here in Iqaluit on May 29-30, and then returned to Ottawa to second the federal government's motion in the Senate for formal concurrence to our Official Languages Act on June 2nd.

I extend my personal appreciation, and the best wishes of all Nunavummiut to Willie Adams on a retirement well deserved. Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join me in a farewell tribute to our Senator.

Qujannamik, Mr. Speaker