



## **Minister's Statement**

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Hon. Eva Aariak  
Premier of Nunavut

### **Nunavut's Tenth Anniversary**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues and Nunavummiut about an exciting upcoming event, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Nunavut.

On April 1, 1999 the map of Canada was redrawn, creating the country's third and largest territory, Nunavut with its own public government. This fulfilled a key obligation under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and is an important landmark in Canada's constitutional history.

On July 9, 1993, the Canadian Parliament made the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement effective. The road to Nunavut was achieved by many people making great sacrifices and that is why we celebrate Nunavut Day each year on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

On our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, April 1, 2009, activities are planned throughout Nunavut to celebrate this historic event.

Earlier this month the Department of Community and Government Services announced a \$5,000 grant for each Municipality for 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. The Department of Education has provided a \$2,500 grant to each school in Nunavut to support these community celebrations. By working together and pooling their resources, every community in Nunavut will celebrate this historic occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I will be going to Pond Inlet along with the member of Legislative Assembly for Tununiq James Arvaluk on Friday, March 20 to begin the 10 day countdown leading up to April 1, 2009.

Activities in Iqaluit will take place at the Arctic Winter Games arena beginning at 5:30 pm. There will be a feast with traditional foods, games for people of all ages, music and of course dancing.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude my statement by encouraging all of my colleagues and Nunavummiut to celebrate Nunavut's tenth anniversary.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.