



Minister's Statement

No. _____

Date _____

Honourable Eva Aariak
Premier of Nunavut

Thank you to Pond Inlet

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, on Friday, several of us went to Pond Inlet to hold a countdown celebration to Nunavut's tenth anniversary. On behalf of the Honourable Member for Kugluktuk and the Honourable Member for Arviat, I would like to thank the community and Member for Tunnuniq for their hospitality and for organizing the great celebration.

There was a feast of country foods, with a lot of muktaaq, and a lively square dance. We cut ten cakes, one for every year since Nunavut's creation. We helped all of the ten-year olds celebrate the year of their birth, and we recognized Tapisa Pitseolak, Pond Inlet's Nunavut Baby who was born on April 1st, 1999.

Mr. Speaker, we also took time to thank the community of Pond Inlet for practicing Inuit Societal Values and working so hard to harvest the trapped narwhal last winter. The Honourable Member for Arviat and I presented a plaque to the Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Association for their role in coordinating the harvest.

Saturday was also productive. We started the day with a trip to Baffinland's Mary River project to see the deposit and their work camp. Back in Pond Inlet, we met with the Mayor of Pond Inlet, several Councilors and their Elder's representative.

Mr. Speaker, this Cabinet committed to visiting all of Nunavut's communities to really understand local interests and to empower local solutions. This year, the tenth anniversary of our territory and government, is the ideal time to visit the communities. Once again, thank you to Pond Inlet for hosting us for the countdown celebration.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.