



Minister's Statement

No. _____

Date _____

Hon. Eva Aariak
Premier
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

International Women's Day

Mr. Speaker,

Yesterday was March 8, the day marked as International Women's Day. It is a day for celebration of women's accomplishments and advancement towards equality. Each year at this time, Canadians celebrate progress toward equality for women and their full participation in society. It is also an occasion for stopping and reflecting on the challenges and barriers that remain, and to consider future steps to achieving equality for *all* women, in *all* aspects of their lives. It is appropriate that this year's theme for International Women's Day is "Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities".

Over time, International Women's Day has grown into commemorative events across the country, and the occasion has been observed since 1911. Next year will be the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day.

We celebrate here in Nunavut as well. In Iqaluit this weekend, the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council hosted a day-long event, starting with an arts and crafts fair, a talent show, and a concert. Other Status of Women Council members across

Nunavut received grants to host events in their communities as well.

Mr. Speaker, as Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize this important event, and to acknowledge the contributions our mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, and daughters have made to our Nunavut communities. There are so many women in Nunavut who have dedicated themselves to create change in their communities, working on a range of issues that affect women and their families. To honour these women and the contributions they have made, I'm also pleased to say Qullit again presented their Wise Woman of the Year Award to a woman who has made outstanding contributions to women's advancement in her community. This year's recipient is Dr. Patricia DeMaio of Iqaluit. Please join me in congratulating her in receiving this well-deserved acknowledgement.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate all Nunavummiut – women and men, girls and boys – for celebrating International Women's Day, and joining together to honour women's achievements in our Territory.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.