

## **Statement**

## Premier Akeeagok optimistic about direction outlined in Throne Speech by first Inuk Governor General

November 23, 2021 Iqaluit, Nunavut

Premier PJ Akeeagok today released the following statement:

"I welcome the direction outlined by Governor General Mary Simon in the Speech from the Throne. It was a proud day and an historic moment for Canadian Inuit to hear the first Indigenous Governor General in Canada deliver parts of the Speech from the Throne in Inuktitut. It was also powerful to see the Governor General start with a note about action on reconciliation.

Some of the priorities outlined in the Speech from the Throne speak directly to the key issues in Nunavut. I was pleased to hear an emphasis on action on reconciliation, mental health, housing, infrastructure and affordable childcare.

These investments are fundamental to addressing Nunavut's infrastructure and housing gap and will make a significant impact on our territory's suicide crisis. They will also be instrumental in laying a positive foundation for our children.

Another priority area outlined in the Speech from the Throne was climate change and the rapid warming of the Arctic. Nunavut has a proud history of partnering with the Federal Government to address climate change, including work to establish Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area, Canada's largest marine protected area.

Our territory is eager to continue our work to protect our pristine Arctic environment and wildlife habitat while providing opportunities for Nunavummiut via investments in the blue economy and green jobs.

I am eager to continue to build on past partnerships with Prime Minister Trudeau's government to advance joint priorities and goals."

## **Media Contact:**

Sima Sahar Zerehi Press Secretary, Premier's Office 867-975-5059 szerehi6@gov.nu.ca