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Press Release

Tagak Curley, Director of Business Development for Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. issued the following statement today following inaccurate news reports made Friday by Nunatsiaq News and CBC North:

I wish to clarify certain comments attributed to me in a story published Friday May 3, 1996 in the Nunatsiaq News and responded to by the Deputy Premier, the Honourable Goo Arlooktoo, in a Point of Privelege statement he made on the same date to the NWT Legislative Assembly. A direct attack on my veracity based on a news account is, I believe, an unfortunate use of the powerful tool that is the member's privilege.

The Nunatsiaq News story inaccurately reported that I had spoken with the Deputy Premier and that I had been urging him to respect the (Nunavut) land claim agreement. The article also falsely reported me as saying that the Deputy Premier had informed me that he was under pressure from other Cabinet Colleagues who "aren't as eager to see Article 24 implemented". These statements are simply not true. I have never spoken to Mr. Arlooktoo on the issue of Article 24. We have a protocol we closely follow within NTI when dealing with matters such as this and all formal communication between Ministers and the organization is left to the President or other Executive Committee members rather than to staff.

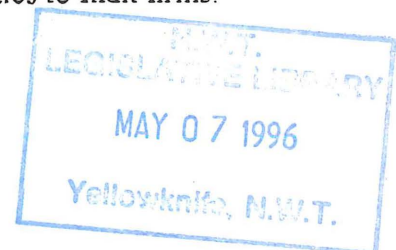
I am also concerned that the Nunatsiaq News reported me as saying that I think the Cabinet is deliberately delaying coming to a decision on how to implement Article 24. I never made such a statement.

On Monday, NTI and the Article 24 Working Group which includes the Executive Directors of the three Regional Inuit Associations will be anxious to see the statement from the Deputy Premier concerning the intentions of the GNWT with regard to the implementation of Article 24. This is a very important section of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement signed by both the Federal and Territorial Governments and passed into legislation July 9, 1993. It deals with important government contracting procedures and opportunities which will be made available to Inuit Firms to gain access to these contracts. These provisions have already been in effect for three years and NTI is anxious to ensure that the GNWT complies with its obligations and provides these opportunities to Inuit firms.

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For further information please contact:

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