

# News Release Com



## COMMUNIQUE FROM NUNAVUT LEADERS SUMMIT, IQALUIT, JANUARY 12-14, 1998

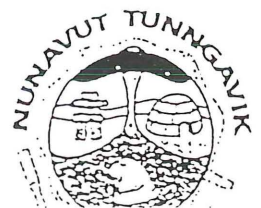
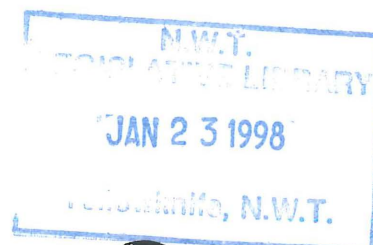
(Iqaluit, January 14, 1998)

The three parties to the Nunavut Political Accord (the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated), assisted by the Office of Interim Commissioner and the Nunavut Implementation Commission, have had two days of productive meetings.

The Office of the Interim Commissioner presented a comprehensive implementation plan concerning the structure and nature of the Nunavut Government. There was constructive discussion on a range of issues and a renewed commitment by all parties to work together to make Nunavut a success.

The parties are pleased to affirm that the following principles will guide implementation activities:

- It is in the interests of all the people of the Northwest Territories that the transition to two territories be accomplished in ways that are practical and achievable.
- Nunavut is founded on values of openness and fairness for everyone, accordingly:
  - (a) it is recognized that the success of Nunavut will depend on the active involvement and contributions of all its citizens, both Inuit and non-Inuit;
  - (b) the interests of all residents of the Northwest Territories must be taken into account in planning and implementation activities; and,
  - (c) a seamless transfer of GNWT employees in Nunavut to the Government of Nunavut will occur through the early conclusion of transfer agreements.



The parties are also pleased to announce that they have consensus on the following points:

### Government Structure

1. As indicated in the letter of direction from the Minister of INAC to the Interim Commissioner dated April 17, 1997, the Government of Nunavut will be established in accordance with the design model recommended by the Nunavut Implementation Commission in its *Footprints 2* report subject to any modifications as may be agreed to by the parties.

At this stage, parties have agreed that the *Footprints 2* design model will be subject to the following modifications:

- the three existing health boards will be retained and will be reviewed upon the recruitment of the Nunavut Deputy Minister of Health;
- on the recommendation of the President of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Mr. Jose Kusugak, the creation of one education board through the merger of the existing three boards will be reviewed upon the recruitment of the Nunavut Deputy Minister of Education; and,

there is agreement in principle to the Interim Commissioner's recommendation of a total of 675.5 headquarters positions, recognizing that it is unrealistic to determine or predict with precision the headquarters complement that will be on staff in the year 2002.

2. Ensuring the smooth transition and continuation of the delivery of essential services and the successful set-up and initial operation of the Government of Nunavut would best be effected by concentrating on the establishment of core headquarters capacity for the Government of Nunavut on April 1, 1999.

In the establishment of initial headquarters capacity for the Government of Nunavut on April 1, 1999, priority must be given to key areas including those identified in the Nunavut Political Accord, such as:

- (a) Legislative Assembly and Executive Council;
- (b) financial matters;
- (c) justice;
- (d) implementation of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement; and,
- (e) elements of other departments as may be practical.

Officials will continue to work to define core functions and essential services necessary for April 1, 1999.

3. Ensuring the smooth transition and continuation of delivery of essential services and the successful set-up and initial operation of the Government of Nunavut would best be effected by committing to a phased build-up in headquarters capacity for the Government of Nunavut.

The phased build-up in headquarters capacity must give full respect to the decentralization features of the approved design model, that is moving jobs out to the communities. The phased build-up should be completed as soon as practical. In determining what is practical the following factors are likely to be relevant:

- infrastructure completion and other logistical considerations;
  - Inuit hiring and training;
  - continuity in program and service delivery; and,
  - administrative efficiencies.
4. Contracting with the GNWT and others for the supply of certain programs and services for a transitional period after April 1, 1999 will focus on technical and administrative assistance and not on policy development.

Any contracting between the Government of Nunavut and the Government of the Northwest Territories or others for the supply of headquarters assistance must be worked out in ways that respect the following:

- (a) the need for the GNWT or others to have adequate preparatory time to make personnel, office space, training, and similar adjustments and arrangements;
- (b) the need for the GNWT or others to recover predictable costs; and,
- (c) the need to move to a fully functioning Nunavut Government as soon as possible.

## Recruitment

5. The Interim Commissioner will continue to give the highest priority to the early recruitment of Deputy Ministers to the Government of Nunavut.

## Electoral Districts

6. The first Nunavut Legislative Assembly will have 19 members, elected on the basis of single member constituencies. The federal government will proceed to develop the necessary Order-in-Council.

## Direct Election

7. Given the far-reaching implications surrounding the issue of direct election of a Premier, this issue has been reserved for consideration by the First Legislative Assembly after April 1, 1999.

## Justice

8. Nunavut will be best served by a single level trial court combining the functions of superior and territorial courts. The federal Minister of Justice will be invited to introduce legislation to Parliament to achieve this objective.

## Legislation

9. The setting up of the Government of Nunavut will be facilitated by the enactment of a package of amendments to the *Nunavut Act* in relation to such things as the timing of first Nunavut Legislative Assembly elections, the grand-fathering of Northwest Territories' laws, and the representation of Nunavut in the Senate and House of Commons. It is hoped that such a package will be introduced to Parliament as soon as practical.

## Informatics

10. The Government of Nunavut will be equipped with a modern and efficient informatics system. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development will provide a total of \$8 million to the Office of the Interim Commissioner to establish core systems prior to April 1, 1999. System requirements post-1999 will need to be considered.

## Next Steps

11. The three parties to the Nunavut Political Accord will designate staff to assist the Office of Interim Commissioner to finalize the details of the implementation plan for approval by the leaders by March 15, 1998. Such efforts will take place in the context of on-going inter-organizational discussions at the officials' level. The Nunavut Implementation Commission will assist in this process.
12. The parties look forward to the Interim Commissioner presenting a comprehensive Inuit employment and staffing plan at the end of March 1998.

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# News Release Communiqué

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## Nunavut Leaders Summit Meeting Brings Consensus

Iqaluit (January 14, 1998) -- Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Jane Stewart, Deputy Premier of Government of the Northwest Territories, Goo Arlooktoo and President of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Jose Kusugak today announced that they have reached consensus on a number of Nunavut implementation issues, including electoral districts and a phased-in build up of government capacity. The parties affirmed their commitment to an open, fair and inclusive process for the creation of Nunavut.

Also participating at the summit were Nunavut M.P. Nancy Karetak-Lindell, NWT Minister Manitok Thompson, MLAs from Nunavut, members of the NTI Board of Directors, Interim Commissioner Jack Anawak, and members of the Nunavut Implementation Commission. The meeting was chaired by Nunavut Implementation Commission Chairman John Amagoalik.

"The Office of the Interim Commissioner has given us a good base on which to further build and define the nature and structure of the Nunavut government", said Minister Stewart. "The valuable contributions of all organizations participating in the meeting have allowed us to move forward with confidence and I look forward to continued progress in the months to come."

"I welcome our agreement on some key decisions and for a process to quickly resolve further issues as they arise," said Deputy Premier Arlooktoo. "I also welcome the clarity surrounding the model and size of the Nunavut government; the commitment to a seamless transfer of GNWT staff working in Nunavut to the new government; and, as Minister of Justice, the adoption of a single-level trial court."

"I know now with the acceptable compromises by all at this Nunavut Leaders Summit that we are all working towards the same goal, not because of its necessity, but because we all want to," said Mr. Kusugak. "Excitement rises!"

"Getting to Nunavut has always involved making a series of small steps," said Chairman Amagoalik. "The smooth transition from one to two territories is no different. A modest government on April 1, 1999 that will mature with the addition of greater responsibilities over time is the recipe for success."

"I am very pleased with the progress made on the outstanding issues I raised, including the health and education boards; the single-level trial court; and the systems plan," said the Interim Commissioner Anawak. "Now that our comprehensive plan has been provided to the parties, I am looking forward to working with them over the next few weeks to finalize our plan so implementation can proceed."

"The parties have done a great deal of work," said Ms. Karetak-Lindell, Member of Parliament for Nunavut. "The Interim Commissioner now has clear direction and can begin to implement a practical public government that will function on April 1, 1999 and beyond."

A communiqué outlining the points of consensus reached at the Nunavut Leaders Summit is attached.

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