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Listening to the communities, April 30, Taloyoak.
Photo by Madeleine Allakariallak

Eva's Welcome



Listening to the Communities

At the heart of our Government's **Tamapta Mandate** is listening to Nunavummiut and aligning our actions with the needs and desires of the people we represent. It was in this spirit of two-way communications that our Government embarked upon the **Qanukanniq Report Card** last fall, which informed our Government's **Action Plan 2010-2013**.

I was eager to continue the dialogue with Nunavummiut last month, when I joined Minister Taptuna, Minister Peterson, and Minister Shewchuk, on a tour of the Kitikmeot region, stopping in the communities of Kugaaruk, Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven, Kugluktuk, and Cambridge Bay. As well as meeting with the hamlets and visiting Government of Nunavut offices, we also participated in community meetings where we heard from people of all ages and walks of life. Thank you to all of the communities of the Kitikmeot for your warm welcome and for taking the time to speak with us.

One of the loudest messages we heard was the need to continue to improve our internal systems and communications. At this very moment, our government is improving services in all official languages, renovating our website, and developing a centralized telephone system. While these are all steps in the right direction, our Government would like to go even further in improving our communications.

For that reason, the reinstatement of the Government Liaison Officer positions has become one of the Government of Nunavut's top priorities in 2010-11 and we are moving quickly towards its implementation. Let us remember that the dream of Nunavut, at its essence, was about building a new government that is closer to the people it serves and reflects our values and priorities. Bringing back the Government Liaison Officer position to every community in Nunavut will help to ensure that happens.



Questions? Comments? Feedback?

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Premier Eva Aariak joins Chief of Defense Staff, General Walt Antynczyk, and Minister of National Defence, Peter Mackay, on April 26 in Alert. Photo by Madeleine Allakariallak

Visit my [website](#) to find out more about the [Government Liaison Officers](#), and see the [news release](#) and [photos](#) of the Kitikmeot Tour.

Never hesitate to contact me with your feedback or concerns. I'm always here to listen.

The Honourable Eva Aariak

Premier of Nunavut

Recent News



Nunavut Mining Symposium

While the rest of the country was in the midst of an economic downturn, this year Nunavut opened its first gold mine. That was just one of the good news stories delivered at the thirteenth annual Nunavut Mining Symposium which took place in Iqaluit from April 13-15. Professionals from Inuit organizations, regulatory agencies, various levels of government, and exploration and mining companies gathered in Nunavut's capital to discuss the growth of mining in our territory. In the latest community radio interview, Minister Responsible for Mines, the Honourable Peter Taptuna, discusses the successes and challenges of mining in the territory. Click [here](#) to listen to the interview.

Operation Nunalivut

I was thrilled to travel to Alert on April 26 to welcome back our hard-working Canadian Rangers as they returned from their patrol, Operation Nunalivut. I was joined by federal Minister of Defense, the Honourable Peter Mackay, Chief of the Defense Staff, General Walt Natynczyk, Brigadier General David Millar, Minister of Environment, the Honourable Daniel Shewchuk and MLA for Quttiktuq, Ron Elliott. I thanked Canada for its investment in the protection and safety of northerners, but also took the opportunity to remind our visitors that Canada's claim for sovereignty is intricately tied to our people and our self-reliance. And, that we will only become self-reliant when Canada devolves jurisdictional control over the land and seabed internal to Nunavut. Click [here](#) to see the photos of Operation Nunalivut and [here](#) to read the speeches I delivered while in Alert.



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Premier Eva Aariak spends time with Elders Ella Paneguk and Alice Ayalik on May 2 in Kugluktuk.
Photo by Madeleine Allakariallak

Northern Premiers' Conference

On May 14, 2010, I travelled to Whitehorse to join my territorial colleagues, Premier Roland and Premier Fentie, for the eighth annual Northern Premiers' Conference where discussed issues of importance to the people of Canada's North. Some of the issues that we discussed were renewable energy inventory, northern climate change adaptation strategy, water stewardship, housing, infrastructure, a Northern university and Northern research. I am pleased that the three northern Premiers enjoy such a cooperative working relationship. It was also the first time that we met with the permanent participants of the Arctic Council. I am looking forward to meeting with the Premiers again at the Western Premiers' Conference next month. For more information about the discussions and outcome of the meeting, click [here](#).

Chesterfield Inlet Celebration

On May 25, I joined Minister Kusugak and MLA John Ningeongan for a special celebration in Chesterfield Inlet. Not only was it the 30th anniversary of the hamlet, but the theme of the celebration was "Stepping Forward" – acknowledging the past effects and hardships which arose from residents' experiences with the residential school system, between 1929 and 1970, and the process of moving forward towards reconciliation. It was an honour to lend my support as the community moved forward, a theme that runs throughout our Government's [Tamapta Mandate](#). Moving forward gives us the opportunity to look through our lives and experiences and to choose to keep those experiences that we believe in, that have helped us, and that we want to use to build our future. Congratulations to all of the residents of Chesterfield Inlet and thank you for your warm hospitality.

In Focus



Nunavut: Waiting on unfulfilled promises

Last month I was asked to submit an Op-Ed to Embassy magazine, Canada's influential foreign policy newspaper which reaches politicians, foreign policy experts, diplomats, and other influential leaders and decision-makers. In my Op-Ed, which you can read [here](#), I reiterated that Inuit have a critical role to play in any decisions that are made and that the Arctic is not some distant frontier to us; it is our home.

In our In Focus section this month, you will also find [Devolution: Q & A's](#). Devolution is a term which is often misunderstood, and yet it is so important to the future of our territory. The [Q & A's](#) will address some of the most common questions about Devolution in Nunavut, and if you happen to have any more questions, our Devolution division is waiting to hear from you at 867-975-6070.



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Premier Eva Aariak with Ministers Daniel Shewchuk, Keith Peterson, Keith Peterson and Peter Taptuna encouraging today's youth to become tomorrow's leader on April 30 in Taloyaok. Photo by Madeleine Allakariallak

Q&A with Eva



The Premier Answers Your Questions

Q: What's being done to help improve Nunavut's graduation rate?

A: I firmly believe that a solid education is the key to addressing many of our territory's challenges and achieving great success and our government is committed to helping Nunavummiut reach their full potential. Raising the high school graduation rate is one of our main priorities.

July 1, 2009 marked an important day for education in Nunavut. It was the day Nunavut's Education Act came into force. Nunavut now has laws to ensure students will receive a bilingual education including the Inuit language, that our education system will be founded in Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and that more community involvement in education is mandatory through District Education Authorities (DEAs).

Bilingual education will focus on literacy and language instruction. Success in schools is dependent on language skills. DEAs now receive more funding to promote positive school environments, attendance programs, Elders in schools and cultural programming. More than ever, DEAs have the ability to lead the educational process in the community and to listen and respond to their voters, students, parents and community members.

As well, Nunavut-relevant assessments will help us determine our students' needs. Our assessments measure educational standards with social, cultural and linguistic diversity. Assessment occurs through instructional activity over time, demonstrates progress and encourages students to achieve their best. We are also ensuring our courses meet the standards for university-entry requirements.

The Department has been actively developing and providing in-service training to Nunavut educators on new high school courses and made-in-Nunavut curriculum. More recently, there has been training and implementation of the Inuuqatigiitsiarniq policy on positive school environments.

The Education Act requires schools to implement annual school improvement plans that focus on student success. Both the Education Act and Inuit Language Protection Act will require that students attain certain targets for language.

And Nunavut's efforts in improving education outcomes over the last decade are working! Take a look at the table below to see how much our grad rates have improved over the past nine years:

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Premier Eva Aariak greets Canadian Rangers upon their return of Operation Nunavut 10 on April 26 in Alert, Nunavut. Photo by Madeleine Allakariallak

High School Graduation Rate for Nunavut 2000/01-2007/08

Table with 4 columns: Academic Year, Average of 17 & 18 Year Olds in Nunavut, Number of Graduates, Graduation Rate (%). Rows from 2000/01 to 2008/09.

Graduation rates are calculated by dividing the number of graduates by the average of the 17 and 18 year old population for that particular academic year...

Official Statistics Canada Graduation Rates for this year have not been released yet; these numbers are estimates based on population data from the Bureau of Statistics website.

To submit your own question, simply contact us.

Upcoming Events

- May 28: Government of Nunavut Long-Term Service Awards
June 1 - 10: Spring Session of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
June 15-16: Western Premiers' Conference in Vancouver, B.C.
June 18: Premier to appear on CTV to make a special presentation in Ottawa, ON.
June 18 - 20: Nunavut Sivuniksavut students' reunion to be held in Iqaluit.
June 21: National Aboriginal Day
June 28 - July 2: Inuit Circumpolar Council Meeting in Nuuk, Greenland



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