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Nunavut Maligaliurvia
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

RELEASE

New *Integrity Act* introduced in the Legislative Assembly

Cambridge Bay, Nunavut (May 22, 2001) –A new Nunavut-based approach to dealing with conflict of interest for elected MLAs was introduced today in the Legislative Assembly by the Hon. Kelvin Ng, Government House Leader.

The Integrity Act follows on a comprehensive review of existing legislation conducted by Nunavut's Conflict of Interest Commissioner, the Hon. Robert Stanbury, P.C., Q.C. Mr. Stanbury's report, *For a Culture of Integrity*, was tabled today by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Hon. Kevin O'Brien.

"It is vital that elected officials put the public interest ahead of private gain," said Minister Ng. "Members of the Assembly have placed a high priority on this issue."

The Integrity Act will be a new, stand-alone statute governing conflict of interest provisions affecting elected MLAs. It will replace the existing provisions contained in Part III of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. It provides for the incumbent Conflict of Interest Commissioner to assume the new position of Integrity Commissioner upon the coming into force of the legislation.

In May 2000, Members of the Legislative Assembly publicly signed a code of Members' Obligations. The code states in part: "I will not condone actions that are dishonest or which exploit positions of privilege for personal gain."

"All Members contributed to the development of this Bill," said Hunter Tootoo, MLA for Iqaluit Centre and member of the Legislative Assembly's Management and Services Board. "The Integrity Act will replace existing provisions with a new statute that is more modern, more comprehensive and based in many important ways on the principles of Inuit Qaujimatugangit."

Minister Ng thanked the Hon. Robert Stanbury for his work in bringing forward recommendations for a new Act. "His excellent work has taken into account new ways of dealing with these issues in other jurisdictions, and is tailored to fit our circumstances in Nunavut."

"The new legislation strengthens the conflict of interest regime in a number of ways," said Mr. Stanbury. "Many jurisdictions are emphasizing higher ethical standards of leadership in their legislation, rather than just providing a catalogue of wrongdoing. This new legislation will help put Nunavut in the forefront of modern democratic institutions."

A backgrounder on the Integrity Act is available in [Word 7](#) or Adobe [Acrobat](#) Format

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