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Nunavut Maligaliurvia
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

RELEASE

**Iqaluit East MLA Ed Picco announces decision
Not to seek re-election to the Legislative Assembly**

IQALUIT, Nunavut (September 22, 2008) - The Honourable Ed Picco, MLA for Iqaluit East, today announced his decision not to seek re-election to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

“This decision has been one of the most difficult of my life. I have been personally overwhelmed by the support expressed by my colleagues, the constituents of Apex and Iqaluit, the many Elders and Nunavummiut. However, after close consultation with my family, I have decided that it is time for us to open a new chapter in our lives,” said Picco.

Picco was first elected to territorial office in the Northwest Territories general election of 1995. He was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut in the general elections of 1999 and 2004. He served in a number of Ministerial portfolios, including Health and Social Services, Education and Energy. He also served as Government House Leader and Minister Responsible for Homelessness and Immigration.

Picco introduced the First Tobacco/Anti-smoking program and legislation in Nunavut, was the catalyst behind the start of Nunavut’s Nursing program and introduced the recently passed, Bill 21, the first Nunavut Education Act. The expansion of the men’s Homeless Shelter and the opening of the Akausisarvik mental health facility, construction of the regional health facilities as well as the Baffin Regional Hospital all occurred under his Ministerial leadership. Picco also guided the development and start-up of the Nunavut Power Corporation later to be known as the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

“Ed Picco and I have served together in the Legislative Assembly for almost a decade and I have greatly valued his advice and judgment. On behalf of all Nunavummiut, I want to express deep appreciation for his service to the territory,” commented Premier Paul Okalik.

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