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Nunavut Maligaliurvia
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

R E L E A S E

Members of the Legislative Assembly comment on Presidential Visit to Canada

IQALUIT, Nunavut (February 20, 2009) – James Arvaluk, Chairperson of the Regular Members’ Caucus of the Legislative Assembly, today commented on the visit to Canada of United States President Barack Obama.

“Nunavummiut were proud to see young Inuit from the Nunavut Sivuniksavut Program welcome President Obama to Parliament Hill,” said Mr. Arvaluk. “Their presence symbolizes the importance of the Arctic in the relationship between our nations and demonstrates the need to take into account the concerns, value and priorities of the indigenous peoples of the Arctic.”

Regular Members of the Legislative Assembly are presently meeting in Iqaluit to prepare for the upcoming sitting of the Legislative Assembly. The First Session of the Third Legislative Assembly will reconvene on March 17, 2009, at 1:30pm (EST).

Mr. Arvaluk added, “News reports indicate that Arctic char from Nunavut was served at the lunch held for President Obama. This showcases the importance of investing in sectors that have strong potential for economic growth and job creation in our communities. In light of the global recession, this is an issue that I anticipate Regular MLAs will emphasize when the House sits next month.”

On January 9, 2009, the outgoing Bush Administration issued a National Security Presidential Directive concerning the Arctic Region Policy of the United States.

“I urge President Obama to review this policy and take into account the concerns expressed by Northern leaders with respect to such matters as Arctic sovereignty and the Northwest Passage,” said Paul Okalik, MLA for Iqaluit West.

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