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Nunavut Maligaliurvia
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

R E L E A S E

Members of the 4th Legislative Assembly Agree on Key Priorities

IQALUIT, Nunavut (February 24, 2014) - The Legislative Assembly's Full Caucus gathered in Kugluktuk from February 18-21, 2014, to establish priority areas for action during their term of office.

Premier Peter Taptuna said, "There was clear consensus among my colleagues that our government will best serve Nunavut by focusing on clearly-defined, realistic and achievable goals. *Sivumut Abluqta: Stepping Forward Together* will form the foundation of our mandate and the basis on which Nunavummiut will measure our success as their elected representatives."

Sivumut Abluqta: Stepping Forward Together outlines four key thematic priorities:

- Self-reliance and optimism through education and training;
- Healthy families through strong and resilient communities;
- Economic growth through responsible development across all sectors; and
- Good government through wise use of our resources.

Sivumut Abluqta: Stepping Forward Together will be publicly tabled in the Legislative Assembly on the occasion of the upcoming Throne Speech, which will take place following the Legislative Assembly's consideration of the proposed 2014-2015 capital estimates. The Throne Speech, which is also referred to as the Commissioner's Opening Address, will outline a number of specific actions to accompany each thematic priority.

Minister of Finance Keith Peterson said, "Our government's next budget and set of departmental and territorial corporation business plans, which will be introduced in the spring sitting of the House, will focus on identifying, in detail, the resources necessary to achieving the priorities that are articulated in *Sivumut Abluqta: Stepping Forward Together*."

During its deliberations, Caucus also agreed on a number of specific initiatives to strengthen territorial governance. These include:

- The introduction of legislation to provide for fixed election dates. Amendments to the *Nunavut Elections Act* will be introduced next month that will result in territorial general elections being held every four years. Consequently, the next general election will take place on the last Monday in October of 2017. Caucus agreed that this measure will provide the government with a transparent, predictable and manageable timeframe in which to achieve its goals.
- The convention of holding a mid-term leadership review of the Executive Council (Cabinet) will continue. In anticipation of the pending passage of fixed election date legislation, Caucus agreed that the next mid-term leadership review will be held in the fall of 2015. Caucus further agreed that the review will be broadened from past exercises to include such matters as the size of Cabinet, the Legislative Assembly's standing committee structure and the status of the government's progress towards achieving the priorities established in *Sivumut Abluqta: Stepping Forward Together*. The review will be conducted in public.
- The adoption of a *Code of Conduct* for Members of the Legislative Assembly. The *Code* will establish clear expectations for Members in relation to their public behaviour in the execution of their duties.
- The holding of a territory-wide plebiscite in 2016 concerning the alienation of municipal lands, pursuant to Article 14.8.4 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. The last plebiscite concerning this issue took place in 1995. The upcoming vote will be administered by Elections Nunavut under the provisions of the recently-passed *Plebiscites Act*. Nunavummiut will be asked to consider the question of whether the current restrictions applying to the disposal of municipal lands should continue.
- The statutorily-required reviews of the *Education Act*, the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* will be conducted during the life of the 4th Legislative Assembly.

The 1st Session of the 4th Legislative Assembly reconvenes on March 6, 2014.

The proceedings of the House will be broadcast live across Nunavut on both cable and direct-to-home satellite service.

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