



PRESS RELEASE

New Cabinet Gets Praise and Offers New Hope For Inuit Land Claim Organization

Kuujuuaq PQ- November 5, 2015 - Makivik Corporation congratulates Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his Cabinet as they take over governing the country.

Prime Minister Trudeau said his new Cabinet is the face of Canada. “I believe we have a new opportunity to set a more positive relationship between the Indigenous peoples of Canada and our National Government” said Makivik President Jobie Tukkiapik.

Makivik is the land Claim Corporation that represents the more **than 12,000 beneficiaries** of the James Bay and Northern Quebec land and offshore claim agreements.

The new Trudeau Cabinet comprises of thirty members, including two indigenous members in key departments. Additionally Mr Tukkiapik said Inuit welcome a renamed Department of Indigenous Affairs and Northern Development.

“I especially want to congratulate Hunter Tootoo, the newly elected Member for Nunavut who was appointed by Prime Minister Trudeau as the new Minister of Fisheries and the Canadian Coast Guard.”

“This is an important portfolio for all Inuit in Canada. We are a coastal people and increasingly with the modern economy our communities have been moving into commercial fishing. Licensing and quotas are divided between several provincial, territorial and international jurisdictions. To now have a Minister who understands the northern and Inuit realities, is a very positive and encouraging development.

Similarly, said Mr Tukkiapik, “to see the first aboriginal Canadian, Jody Wilson-Raybould become the Minister of Justice, signals a less combative and court focused

relationship between Indigenous Peoples and the Government and instead suggests a relationship based on constitutional rights, equality and partnerships.

Additionally, the new Prime Minister has renamed the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, to the department of Indigenous Affairs and Northern Development which Makivik believes signals a more inclusive department that represents the interests of all First Peoples. “For a long time Inuit were fighting for Inuit specific programs and approaches that reflect our northern realities. Too often the Department saw our issues through a First Nations lens”.

“I congratulate Carolyn Bennett as the new Minister for this new department. She has travelled to all parts of the north- and served in opposition as critic of the old department of Indian Affairs, she understands the file and knows what is working and what needs fixing” he said. “Especially the overall relationship”

The Makivik President is writing Ministers requesting an early meeting. “My letter to Minister Bennett will express the urgency of addressing the critical housing needs across Nunavik.”

Mr. Tukkiapik is also encouraged that there is a strong opposition member of Parliament sitting across from the new Government. I congratulated NDP Member Romeo Saganash earlier on his victory of Oct 19. He was an effective voice holding the past Government to account on Indigenous issues- and I know he will continue to do the same in the future.

“We have a very good balance in Ottawa” concluded Jobie Tukkiapik.

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Makivik is the development corporation mandated to manage the heritage funds of Inuit of Nunavik provided for in the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. Makivik's role includes the administration and investment of these funds and the promotion of economic growth.