



PRESS RELEASE



(Nain, NL) May 30, 2007 –Nunatsiavut Government and Innu Nation announce renewed relationship and commitment to work together toward common goals.

Nunatsiavut President William Andersen III met with Innu Nation President Daniel Ashini along with their officials in Happy Valley Goose Bay late last week.

The two Aboriginal leaders discussed joint ventures, off-shore oil, and economic opportunities along with the possibility of partnering on social and recreational programs.

President Ashini said, “Over the years our relationship with the Inuit has been excellent. And though we haven’t met for a while, I feel our relationship is still very strong and we should make the time for regular meetings, focusing on new ways to move forward together.”

A feasibility study for a road to Rigolet was discussed and it was agreed that both sides supported the idea of a study to provide more information on the viability and sustainability of a road to the community of Rigolet.

Recent Voisey’s Bay Nickel Company (VBNC) contracting was addressed, with the confirmation from both parties that Aboriginal companies should be the preferred contractors on site. Both parties agreed to work together to ensure this happens.

The conversation led to talks about the vast opportunities that will soon be available in connection with the lower Churchill hydroelectric project in regards to possible joint ventures and future opportunities for employment and economic development for Innu and Inuit with an understanding that more work must be completed on his topic. The Innu Nation talked about the possibility of forming an umbrella interest group similar to the Aboriginal Pipeline Group of the Northwest Territories to promote economic development and ensure development on our land happens on our terms.

President Ashini was updated on the Nunatsiavut Government’s land use planning process and the level of progress of the uranium exploration companies in the Postville and Makkovik area. Subsequently, President Ashini updated the NG about the Innu Nation’s progress on their land claim process.

Chief Executive Officer for the Innu Development Limited Partnership, Bart Jack, pointed out the renowned success of the Impact and Benefits Agreements (IBA) between the Innu, Inuit and VBNC. He mentioned the possibility of promoting these agreements in order to help other Aboriginal groups achieve similar outcomes with mining companies across North America.

Nunatsiavut Government's First Minister, Tony Andersen, raised the possibility of a joint effort to address common social issues as well. Youth, recreation, dialysis and dentistry are just some areas NG and Innu Nation could work together on to improve the well being of Innu and Inuit.

President Andersen said, "I am committed to keeping communications and relations open between us because we are stronger as a team. Working together we have achieved many great accomplishments in the past, and there are many opportunities for further success in the future."

Both Presidents agreed to have further talks on partnerships and opportunities when they meet again in the very near future, possibly during the Expo Labrador conference in Happy Valley Goose Bay.

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