



PRESS RELEASE

(St. John', NL) December 6, 2004 – Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement To Be Ratified Today in NL House of Assembly

Labrador Inuit Association (LIA) President William Andersen III joined Premier Danny Williams and the Honourable Tom Rideout, Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, this morning for their announcement that the provincial government would ratify the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement Act this afternoon in the NL House of Assembly.

“This is of enormous significance,” stated William Andersen III, Labrador Inuit Association (LIA) President. “It will change the relationship between the government of this province and the Inuit of Labrador. It is another critical step toward the self-determination and self-government Labrador Inuit have worked toward for 30 years. This signals a new era built on trust and cooperation.”

In addition to President Andersen, also in St. John's today for the introduction of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement Act in the House of Assembly, were LIA Vice President Tony Andersen, LIA Chief Negotiator Toby Andersen, directors of the board and many LIA members. A number of LIA's Transition Committee members will also be in the Public Galleries to witness the legislation process. They are meeting in St. John's to continue planning for the establishment of Nunatsiavut Government.

The Act still has to be ratified by the Federal government and the Senate before coming into effect. The next step in the ratification process is to ensure the agreement remains a high priority for the federal government. LIA meetings with MPs and Senators in Ottawa have been positive and are ongoing. An official signing ceremony has been tentatively scheduled for January 2005 and LIA is hoping for the legislation to be enacted by Spring 2005.

The LIA is a non-profit corporation representing approximately 5,300 Inuit and Kabloonangajuit of Labrador. LIA is responsible for advancing the aboriginal, constitutional, democratic, social and human rights of Labrador Inuit. For more information on LIA, visit www.nunatsiavut.com

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