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For Immediate Release

## **Excluding Nunatsiavut Government from northern shrimp quotas ‘a betrayal’, says Minister Flowers**

Lands and Natural Resources Minister Greg Flowers is accusing federal Fisheries Minister Bernadette Jordan of blatantly violating the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement (LILCA) by restricting the Nunatsiavut Government access to lucrative northern shrimp stocks.

“The principles of adjacency, historic dependence, economic viability and Indigenous rights and titles are key considerations when recommending quota increases,” notes Minister Flowers. “We are of the view that, by excluding the Nunatsiavut Government from northern shrimp quotas right off our shores, the Minister has failed to honour the spirit and intent of our Constitutionally-protected land claims agreement.”

Minister Jordan announced on September 11 the final 2020-21 total allowable catch for northern and striped shrimp for the Eastern and Western Assessment Zones – portions of which are within and adjacent to the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area.

“Our priority for commercial fisheries is to increase benefits and economic opportunities for Labrador Inuit and Labrador Inuit communities,” adds Minister Flowers. “The Nunatsiavut Government believes it has a right to participate in the northern shrimp fishery. Minister Jordan’s decision continues to hamper our ability to improve the lives of our people and our communities. How are we able to build a sustainable economy when the Government of Canada refuses to recognize our rights and titles to this valuable resource?”

The Nunatsiavut Government has been asserting a right to access northern shrimp for years. Attempts to discuss the issue with Mr. Jordan have not been successful.

“We are extremely disappointed in Minister Jordan’s handling of this issue,” says Minister Flowers. “As a government we feel betrayed. We expect respect, and we don’t deserve to be ignored. One has to wonder whether or not the Government of Canada is committed to reconciliation when a Minister of the Crown disregards the rights afforded to us under LILCA.”

The Nunatsiavut Government is seeking legal advice to determine next steps.

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