



# News Release

## GN consults High Arctic residents on their transportation options

**IQALUIT, Nunavut (July 14, 2010)** – The Honourable Peter Taptuna, Minister of Economic Development & Transportation, today announced the completion of a successful tour of the three High Arctic communities.

“This government is committed to two-way communication with Nunavummiut,” said Minister Taptuna. “This tour demonstrated that we care what people think and want to include them in our decision-making process. Their input will help us improve transportation in the High Arctic.”

Last week, Minister Taptuna led a delegation to Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord to discuss the seven transportation options outlined in the *High Arctic Transportation Cost Study*. The department has not yet selected an option, and wanted to hear the views of High Arctic residents before proceeding.

“We want to involve Quttiktumiut in the process of improving their lives,” added Minister Taptuna. “They live there and they know the cost of travel and goods. They should have a say in how we improve transportation in the High Arctic.”

Ron Elliott travelled with Minister Taptuna. Mr. Elliott is the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Quttiktuq, the riding consisting of the communities of Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord.

“I am impressed with the fact that the Government of Nunavut is recognizing the unique situation of transportation in the High Arctic,” said Elliott. “This is true consultation. I am looking forward to facilitating the meeting of the High Arctic Council when it reviews the communities’ options.”

The High Arctic Council will then decide on its preferred option, and communicate their recommendation to the Department of Economic Development & Transportation. The department will also consult with the airlines operating in the region.

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### **For more information**

**or a copy of the *High Arctic Transportation Cost Study*, contact:**

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