ᑲᑐᑎᓗᒍ ᓄᓇᕗᑦ ᐱᕈᖅᐸᓕᐊᑎᓪᓗᒍ
Building Nunavut Together
Nunavuliuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

News Release

For Immediate Release

Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act

IQALUIT, Nunavut (April 3, 2017) – Bill 19, the *Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act*, was approved unanimously by the Legislative Assembly on March 13, 2017. This new law will help deter illegal acts done for profit, such as bootlegging and drug dealing, by taking the financial incentive out of these harmful activities.

“By helping to reduce the harm of profit-driven unlawful activities, like bootlegging and drug dealing, this new law will improve the health and safety of our communities,” Minister Peterson said. “I would like to thank the public, stakeholders and MLAs for their vital feedback and input as well as the Department of Justice officials for the hard work and dedication that went into this very important piece of legislation.”

The law is based on the civil forfeiture model adopted by many other jurisdictions, but has many aspects that are unique to Nunavut. It allows the Government of Nunavut to seek a court order forfeiting property proven by evidence to be either proceeds or instruments of unlawful activity. Funds generated from the forfeited property may be used to support victims of crime, community wellness projects or to help pay the costs of forfeiture cases.

The Act is not yet in force. It will be brought into force in two stages, starting with the administrative provisions. This will allow for the establishment of the new Forfeiture Office, including staffing and preparing the necessary regulations, policies, and information sharing agreements to begin operation and pursuing forfeiture cases.

###

Media Contact:

Riita Strickland
Policy Analyst
Justice Department
(867) 975-6071
rstrickland@gov.nu.ca

ᐱᕙᓪᓕᐊᔪᑦ ᑐᓴᒐᒃᓴᙳᖅᑎᑕᐅᔪᑦ ᐱᔭᐅᔪᓐᓇᖅᑕᖅᑐᑦ ᐃᓄᒃᑎᑑᖓᓗᑎᒃ, ᖃᓪᓗᓈᑎᑐᑦ, ᐃᓄᐃᓐᓇᖅᑐᓐ ᐅᐃᕖᑎᑐᓪᓗ ᐅᕙᓂ, *www.gov.nu.ca*.
News releases are available in Inuktitut, English, Inuinnaqtun and French on *www.gov.nu.ca*.
Tuhaqtaghat ittut Inuktitut, Qablunaatitut, Inuinnaqtun Uiviititullu talvani *www.gov.nu.ca*.
Les communiqués de presse sont disponibles en inuktitut, en anglais, en inuinnaqtun et en français à : *www.gov.nu.ca.*