

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 21, 2008

REALITY CHECK: LIBERALS MISLEADING ON ARCTIC PARLIAMENTARIANS TRIP

North represented by NDP MP after Liberal no-show

OTTAWA -Today, Nunavut Liberal MP Nancy Karetak-Lindell is suggesting she was excluded from participating in the Conference of Arctic Parliamentarians last week in Fairbanks, Alaska.

"Nunavut Liberal MP Nancy Karetak-Lindell said the most recent example of poor communication came at the Conference of Arctic Parliamentarians, which meets every two years to discuss issues from across the circumpolar world ... But Karetak-Lindell said that choosing a politician from Alberta to act on behalf of Arctic residents doesn't make sense.

'If I was asked to represent say a group of people from Alberta on farming issues or the oil industry, then I would say I don't think I'm the best person for this job because I think you should be represented by someone more familiar," she said.'" (Source, CBC News, 21 August 2008)

Northerners should represent Northerners, which is precisely why Karetak-Lindell should have attended the conference when her party was asked to.

THE FACTS:

A seat was reserved for Liberal MP Massimo Pacetti from Saint-Léonard--Saint-Michel, Quebec who failed to show up (Source, Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association)

The North was represented by Western Arctic, NDP MP Dennis Bevington. (Source, Office of Dennis Bevington)

"I was very vocal in ensuring the interests of Northerners were protected," said Bevington. "When Conservative MP Bob Mills put on a presentation that massive hydro-electric development on the Mackenzie River would be environmentally benign, I set him right on that."

Northerners deserve to know why their two Liberal MPs aren't voting for them in the House or representing them abroad.

-30-

For more information, contact:

Doug Johnson, Office of Dennis Bevington MP (Western Arctic) 613-992-2131