

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **PM'S TAXPAYER-FUNDED NORTHERN PHOTO-OP DOES LITTLE TO HELP THE NORTH**

OTTAWA – Stephen Harper's annual, five-day, whirl-wind tour of the North has cost Canadians millions of dollars but did little for Northerners. Rather than committing to the issues that matter most to Northerners, like lowering food prices, the Prime Minister used his annual trip to re-announce funding promises from last year.

"Photo-ops won't solve the North's problems. We need the Federal Government to start investing in Northerners and the issues that matter most to them," said Dennis Bevington, NDP MP for Western Arctic.

Harper's interest in the North hasn't been backed up by actions. His government introduced the failed Nutrition North program, which has resulted in increasing grocery prices; has not committed to the many infrastructure needs in the North; and refuses to act on climate change.

"If the Prime Minister was interested in the people of the North he would have visited a grocery store to check out food prices or looked at the long list of families waiting for affordable housing," added Bevington.

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**For more information, please contact:**

Heather Finn, Regional Media Officer, 613-355-9940 or [heather.finn@parl.gc.ca](mailto:heather.finn@parl.gc.ca)