

Paul Okalik

Government Leader of Nunavut

Born in Pangnirtung, the Northwest Territories, in 1964, Paul Okalik earned a bachelor's degree in political science and Canadian studies from Carleton University in 1993 and a law degree from the University of Ottawa in 1997. He was called to the Bar of the Northwest Territories on Feb. 12, 1999.

In 1985, Mr. Okalik began work for the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut as a regional researcher and negotiator on the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement. As deputy chief negotiator and special assistant to the president of the federation, Mr. Okalik helped negotiate what became, in 1993, the largest land claim in Canadian history. He then became acting director of Nunavut Tungavik Inc. where he focused on the provisions of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement.

On Feb. 15, 1999, the people of Iqaluit West elected Mr. Okalik as their member in the first Nunavut legislative assembly. The full caucus of Nunavut members elected him as Nunavut's first Government Leader on March 5, 1999.

Mr. Okalik has two children.