

Statement

GREENPEACE

Tootoo and Bennett ministerial appointments encouraging for the Arctic: Greenpeace

4 November 2015 (Toronto) – Responding to the appointment of Nunavut MP Hunter Tootoo as Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, and the appointment of Dr. Carolyn Bennett as the newly-named Indigenous and Northern Affairs Minister, Jessica Wilson, head of Greenpeace Canada’s Arctic campaign, said:

“Hunter Tootoo’s appointment as Minister of Fisheries and Oceans is encouraging news for the Arctic Ocean, which is currently the least protected ocean in the world. As the MP for Nunavut, Mr. Tootoo is perfectly placed to be a strong advocate for the North, and can ensure that the Arctic Ocean is prioritized as part of the Liberals promise to increase the amount of protected marine and coastal areas from 1.3 per cent to 5 per cent by 2017 and 10 per cent by 2020.

“Mr. Tootoo’s support for the Inuit community of Clyde River in their opposition to dangerous seismic blasting is also encouraging. We look forward to seeing stronger steps to promote international efforts to protect the Arctic and its inhabitants from the twin threats of climate change and oil drilling.

“We also congratulate Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, for today’s appointment. As former critic of Aboriginal Affairs, Dr. Bennett is well positioned to address and remedy some of the Harper government’s failures in respecting Indigenous rights and northern concerns, including the disastrous Nutrition North program.”

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