



## NEWS RELEASE

### Government staff begins Inuktitut language training

**IQALUIT, Nunavut (October 18, 1999)** –Culture, Language, Elders and Youth Minister Donald Havioyak and Human Resources Minister Kelvin Ng announced that the first session of Inuktitut language training for Government of Nunavut employees begins October 19 in Iqaluit.

In keeping with the Government of Nunavut's commitment to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in its work, Cabinet has agreed to take a leadership role in using Inuktitut

“Inuktitut is one of our official languages and the working language of our government,” Minister Havioyak said. “We are all trying to improve how we serve the public. Our government is committed to providing Inuktitut training for our employees.”

The first stage of this project takes place in Iqaluit; in the new year courses will be taught throughout Nunavut. The courses will be delivered at the Nunavut Arctic College Community Learning Centers and taught by college instructors. Participants will learn in Inuktitut dialect of their community and instruction will reflect the language needs of the office environment.

“The language training we are announcing today is consistent with our government's mandate to use Inuktitut as our working language,” Minister Ng said. “It is an important step towards ensuring that Nunavummiut can communicate in either Inuktitut or English.”

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