



News Release

Ministers meet for tête à tête on Francophone affairs

IQALUIT, Nunavut (October 9, 2001) – Culture, Language, Elders and Youth Minister Peter Kattuk was encouraged by last month’s annual meeting of ministers responsible for Francophone affairs.

Held in Edmonton, the meetings focused on education, health services, community economic development, as well as current and future interprovincial/territorial cooperation projects.

“As an official language in Nunavut, French is certainly on my department’s agenda,” Minister Kattuk said. “I was encouraged by the progress in other regions with small Francophone populations similar to Nunavut.”

Minister Kattuk took the opportunity to update his colleagues on current French activities in Nunavut, including the new French school in Iqaluit, French translation services for the Government of Nunavut, French funding for the upcoming Arctic Winter Games, and the Legislative Assembly’s review of the *Official Languages Act*.

“Language is very much a part of one’s identity,” Minister Kattuk said. “We have not only to work hard to protect it, but also to invest in its future and be proud of it.”

The next meeting of the ministers responsible for Francophone affairs will take place in St. John’s, Newfoundland in 2002.

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