



Joint news release



Language Week will emphasize linguistic standards

IQALUIT, Nunavut (January 16, 2002) – Language Week will be held across Nunavut from February 10 to 16, 2002.

As part of its commitment to preserving and enhancing Inuktitut, the Department of Culture, Languages, Elders and Youth (CLEY) will work in partnership with the Nunavut Social Development Council (NSDC), Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Regional Inuit Associations, and the Nunavut Language Commissioner to hold activities designed to enhance Inuktitut use in Nunavut communities. The activities, in communities across the territory, will also draw attention to the importance of maintaining linguistic standards.

“CLEY is committed to the protection, promotion, and preservation of our language,” CLEY Minister Jack Anawak said. “I am pleased to announce that my department is working closely with NSDC and other partners in the development, support and delivery of Language Week activities throughout Nunavut.”

“Inuktitut language is the principle instrument by which Inuit world views are shaped,” NSDC Chair Tommy Evik said. “Inuit culture is transmitted from one generation to another. There is an urgent need to preserve, use and promote Inuktitut language for the social and cultural well being of the Inuit.”

Inuktitut Uqauttin Language Week was highly successful in the past and did much to raise community awareness about various issues and concerns involving the day-to-day use of Inuktitut. The response of communities was so encouraging that CLEY and NSDC are now committed to continuing support of this activity with the intent of making it an important annual event on Nunavut’s cultural calendar.

Both Minister Anawak and Mr. Evik urge Nunavummiut to support and honour Inuktitut, and encourage the use of Inuktitut at home and at work. In particular, they encourage Nunavummiut to find ways to enhance Inuktitut as a daily workplace language. The health of Inuktitut, and of Inuit culture, depends on Inuktitut being used constantly, respectfully, and spoken well in all areas of community life across Nunavut, they said.

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