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Pitquhiliqiyikkut  
Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth  
Ministère de la Culture, de la Langue, des Aînés et de la Jeunesse

## News Release

### Inuit Language Protection Moves Forward

**IQALUIT, Nunavut (May 27, 2004)** – The Government of Nunavut has joined Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. to start a process for Made-in-Nunavut language legislation that will result in stronger promotion and protection of Inuktitut.

The government and NTI have agreed to review the recommendations of a Special Committee of the Nunavut Legislature that looked at on how to make the current *Official Languages Act* more relevant to Nunavut.

“We inherited the *Official Languages Act* from the Northwest Territories. It does not equally protect Inuktitut, the language of the majority,” said Culture, Language, Elders and Youth Minister Louis Tapardjuk. “The Special Committee’s final report provides the basis for us to develop legislation that reflects the needs and aspirations of Nunavummiut and ensure Inuktitut is spoken by our children, grandchildren and the generations that follow. At the same time we will continue to protect our English and French minorities.”

The feasibility study by a GN and NTI working group will include a review of the Special Committee’s 18 recommendations, in-depth consultations with municipalities and other stakeholders, and a comprehensive analysis of costs.

The working group has been asked to complete its work by the spring of 2005.

“Our initiative concerning the need for Made-in-Nunavut language legislation has now moved to the point where we are discussing how best to implement such legislation. This is a major step forward,” said NTI President Paul Kaludjak.

“The working group will assist the government to balance the protection of Inuktitut with other urgent issues, including health, education and housing,” said Tapardjuk. “We must also determine the staff and training required to make the Special Committee’s recommendations a reality. Careful planning will be needed.”

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