



## News Release

### 2004 Nunavut Literary Prize winning stories published

**IQALUIT, Nunavut (March 1, 2005)** – Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is pleased to release *Taimanit: Short stories written about life on the land*. The book features the two winning entries from the 2004 Nunavut Literary Prize. The publication was a joint effort between the Department and the Nunavut Literacy Council.

“*Taimanit* is an important step towards creating new and exciting literature in Inuktitut,” said Minister Tapardjuk. “The Nunavut Literary Prize is a great initiative, and I am very hopeful that this publication will lead to the growth of Inuit literature.”

The Department launched the Nunavut Literary Prize to encourage the writing and publishing of new Inuit literature. A \$6,000 first prize and a \$4,000 second prize are awarded each year for the best stories.

Morty Alooloo was the first prize winner in the 2004 Nunavut Literary Prize. She wrote about the changing way of Inuit life and the importance of traditional advice to strengthen the culture. Paul Issakiark received the second prize for his story about a father going out on the land with his son and teaching him traditional hunting knowledge. The book features a forward by the Commissioner of Nunavut, Peter Irniq and illustrations by Andrea Noveya Duffy of Rankin Inlet.

“There is very little published reading material that is written by Inuit for adult readers of Inuktitut. Stories in print are necessary for the development of strong reading and writing skills. They play an important role in the preservation of language and culture,” said Kim Crockatt, Executive Director of the Nunavut Literacy Council. “The publishing of *Taimanit* is a great addition to writing by Inuit. Continuous efforts need to be made to support the writing and publication of literature, stories and poetry by Inuit authors in Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun.”

Judging of the 2005 Nunavut Literary Prize is currently underway. Over the coming months, Nunavummiut will be asked to pick the winners from three finalists. The top three stories will appear in the northern newspapers and readers will be asked to decide the \$6,000 first prize and \$4,000 second prize recipients.

For more information, contact:

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