



News Release

Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and the Government of Nunavut Co-Host Climate Change Terminology Workshop

(October 7, 2005 -- Iqaluit, Nunavut) Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) and the Government of Nunavut (GN) co-hosted a climate change terminology workshop in Iqaluit this week. The workshop, held at the Nunavut Legislative Assembly, wrapped up today.

Called *Terminology on Climate Change*, the workshop brought together a group of more than 20 Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun interpreter-translators and Elders from each of the main dialect groups in Nunavut. Two technical resource-people, a language specialist from Nunavik's Avataq Cultural Institute, a workshop chair, facilitators, and interpreters for the proceedings also participated in the event.

"Over time, Inuit developed a highly specialized and sophisticated vocabulary to describe our environment. These words were very relevant to our survival and well-being," said NTI 1st Vice-President and Vice-President of Finance James Eetoolook. "But the scientific terms used to describe climate change and global warming are not clearly translated into Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun. We organized this workshop so we could develop understandable terminology for Inuit who are witnessing and adapting to these changes every day," he said.

Over the course of the week, workshop participants focused on the most important terms and concepts of climate change impacts and adaptation. An Inuktitut/Inuinnaqtun/English glossary of around 200 terms and concepts will be produced following the workshop.

"Our hunters know better than anyone the effects of climate change in the Arctic because they are experiencing them first hand," said Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Nunavut's Minister of Culture, Language Elders and Youth. "Standardizing climate change terminology in both Inuktitut/Inuinnaqtun and English will make it easier for Inuit and scientists to communicate and share the valuable information they have."

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