



Joint News Release

Public Consultations scheduled in Nunavut communities for Nunavut's proposed Language Bill and the proposed Inuit Language Protection Bill

IQALUIT, Nunavut (April 10, 2007) – The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth will be conducting community consultations for the proposed Language Bill and the proposed Inuit Language Protection Bill in collaboration with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) and the Languages Commissioner's Office.

The Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik are carrying on with the spirit of cooperation set out on the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. There will be simultaneous consultations set for each of the regions.

Roundtable consultations will be in Pond Inlet on April 11th with representatives from Clyde River, Igloolik, Hall Beach, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord followed by a community meeting in Arctic Bay on April 12th.

In the Kivalliq, representatives from Chesterfield Inlet, Whale Cove, Coral Harbour, Baker Lake and Repulse Bay will meet in Rankin Inlet on April 11th followed by a community meeting in Arviat on April 12th.

Roundtable consultations will be held in Kugluktuk on April 16th with representatives from Cambridge Bay and in Gjoa Haven with representatives from Kugaaruk and Taloyoak on April 18th.

Representatives from Pangnirtung, Qikiqtarjuaq, Kimmirut and Sanikiluaq will meet in Iqaluit on April 17th and Iqalumiut will meet in the evening.

“This is an important opportunity for Nunavummiut to voice their opinions about the proposed bills before they are introduced in the spring sitting of the Legislature” says Minister Tapardjuk of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

NTI President Paul Kaludjak stresses “The development of made-in-Nunavut language legislation is historic. This legislation must ensure that Inuit have the right to speak Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun in all aspects of life, whether it be in schools, work places, businesses, or media. I encourage people to go to the consultations and tell us their hopes and desires for language legislation.

The proposed Official Languages Bill is designed to ensure that the Inuit Language, English and French can be used when communicating and receiving services from the Government of Nunavut, as well as during the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly and the Courts.

The proposed Inuit Language Protection Bill contains other measures that are designed to ensure that the Inuit Language remains strong and healthy in Nunavut, as a language of community life, work, business and as a language in schools.

Copies of the proposed bills and consultation documents are available from the website: www.gov.nu.ca/cley or by contacting the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth by phone at 1-866-934-2035 or e-mail cley@gov.nu.ca .

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