



## News Release

### Introduction of Language Legislation

**Iqaluit, Nunavut (June 5, 2007)** – Nunavut’s efforts to advance the Inuit Language took an important step today with the first reading at the Legislative Assembly of the Government of Nunavut’s ground-breaking language legislation. Hon. Louis Tapardjuk, Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth made the historic introduction of made-in-Nunavut *Official Languages Act* and *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

“This legislation emphasizes that Nunavut is a distinct jurisdiction within Canada, where the Inuit Language is the first and preferred language of a majority of Nunavummiut. It recognizes the desire and the right of Inuit to use their language in all aspects of life and at the same time it will aim to achieve the full equality of the Inuit language, English and French, the territory’s three official languages. said Tapardjuk.”

In *Pinasuaqtavut*, the Government of Nunavut committed to making the Inuit Language its working language. The legislation serves as a proactive step towards achieving this objective by 2020. Government of Nunavut employees will have the right to perform all their duties in the Inuit Language. Services to members of the public will remain available in all official languages.

“Nunavut has a special responsibility to ensure the long-term survival of the Inuit language, promote its use and development in all aspects of Nunavut society. We embrace our duty to reflect the views of Inuit and respect our obligations under Article 32 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and this new legislation also provides an opportunity for Canada to revisit the language implications of having established Nunavut, and to renew its commitment to French and the Inuit languages in our unique context,” said Tapardjuk.

The two Bills will be referred to the Ajauqtiit Standing Committee for review.

For more information and to downlink the *Official Languages Bill* and the *Inuit Language Protection Bill* please following this link [www.gov.nu.ca/cley](http://www.gov.nu.ca/cley).

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