

## **News Release**

## LAUNCH OF FLASH CARDS PROMOTING THE INUIT LANGUAGE

**IQALUIT, Nunavut** (**February 21, 2008**) - Louis Tapardjuk, Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth (CLEY), has unveiled today, at the Legislative Assembly, a new set of flash cards to promote the Inuit Language among pre-schoolers.

"Our mother language, the Inuit Language, is vital to who we are as Nunavummiut." said Minister Tapardjuk. "We are all responsible to use and preserve our mother tongue for the benefit of generations to come. The Government of Nunavut is committed to taking action now to ensure that our Inuit Language is, and remains, at the center of work, education and daily life in Nunavut, and also to respond appropriately to the needs and rights of Francophones and Anglophones."

As part of CLEY's mandate to preserve and promote the active use of the Inuit Language, the flash cards were also designed to reflect *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* values, family relationships and common places in our communities. These flashcards will help parents, educators and community organizations across Nunavut who play a role in the revitalization and promotion of the Inuit Language among our children and youth.

Today is the ninth International Mother Language Day. This year is also particularly significant as the United Nations has declared 2008 as the International Year of Languages, under the slogan "Languages Matter!"

Minister Tapardjuk invited children attending daycare at *Tumikuluit Saipaaqivik* and *Les Petits Nanooks* together with some special guests from Takuginai!, IBC's renowned Inuktitut children's show to join him at the Legislative Assembly today to celebrate.

During 2007-08, CLEY awarded \$1.27 million in grants and contributions to non-profit community based organizations and individuals for the promotion and preservation of the Inuit language, and \$300,000 for French Language community-based projects. The deadline for the submission of proposals for the 2008-09 fiscal year is March 31st, 2008, 5:00 pm ET.

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## For more information, contact:

Tocasie Burke, Manager of Inuktitut Affairs or Jean-Michel Béchard, Manager of French Services Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth

Tel: (867) 975-5500 Fax: (867) 975-2204

E-mail: <a href="mailto:languages@gov.nu.ca">languages@gov.nu.ca</a>
<a href="mailto:http://www.gov.nu.ca/cley">http://www.gov.nu.ca/cley</a>

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