



News Release

New Support Phone Line for Elders

IQALUIT, Nunavut (January 26, 2009) – The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is piloting an Elders Support Phone Line to run from the beginning of February to July 2009. This toll-free phone line will ensure elders have somewhere to turn for advice and support.

Over the past year the Department has been consulting with Elders across the territory on the issue of elder abuse. The development of this phone line is a direct result of that consultation. Preliminary feedback from Elders highlighted the fact that Elder Abuse is a concern in many communities within the territory and Elders would appreciate having access to peer to peer counseling on the issues they are facing.

“Inuit Elders link the present to our past and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.” said Minister Tapardjuk. “This pilot project is being set up not just to assist those who need it but to also gauge the extent of the situation that currently exists in Nunavut. This will help us in planning programs and services geared to Elders in the future.”

Elders, who have concerns about their physical and emotional wellbeing and would like to talk to someone, will now have a toll free phone line available for peer to peer counseling in Inuktitut.

Calls will be anonymous and information will be kept confidential.

Elders can call the department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth support phone line at 1-866-684-5056 during the day from Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

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For more information contact:

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