

News Release

Human Anatomy Terminology Workshop a Success

Iqaluit, Nunavut (March 13, 2009) – A group of Elders and Interpreter/translators from Nunavut covered over 500 human anatomy terms in a terminology development workshop this week. Terms created and reviewed will be used to create a glossary and posters that will improve translation and interpreting services for Nunavummiut.

"I think it is very important to participate in these terminology workshops", said Elisapee Ootova, an elder from Pond inlet. "As elders, we want to make sure that the interpreters understand what we are saying, it can especially be difficult to try and convey terms inside the body. This has been very helpful."

"It is essential that we continue to identify, develop and standardize terminology in the Inuit language. The end product of this workshop will minimize potential misunderstanding and misinterpreting regarding terms associated with the human anatomy." Minister of Languages Louis Tapardjuk said. "These workshops are an important part of making the Inuit language the working language of this government."

A similar workshop on Inuinnaqtun human anatomy terms was also held last week in Kugluktuk.

"It was good to have elders to help us put the medical terms into Inuinnaqtun because we, as the health workers do interpret for the elders," said Nora Niptanatiak, Community Health Representative from Cambridge Bay. "Having a glossary or a poster will help us interpret better and help us to look into it when we have trouble interpreting medical terms."

The workshop, sponsored by the Government of Nunavut's Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth will create a glossary and posters to distribute to all health centers, hospitals and schools.

More than a dozen terminology workshops have been held since 2001, involving many language professionals from across Nunavut.

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