News Release

Minister Tapardjuk Calls for Taiguusiliuqtiit Nominations

IQALUIT, Nunavut (May 1, 2009) - Nunavut's Minister of Languages is encouraging Nunavummiut to nominate individuals to be the first members of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit.

Under the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, and Inuit Language authority is established known as the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit. This new body will help expand the knowledge and expertise available with respect to the Inuit Language, and make important decisions about its use, development and standardization.

"For our language to survive and thrive in the modern world, it will need all the support we can provide," said Tapardjuk. "The Taiguusiliuqtiit is an important priority for our government. Its members will be given the critical task to assist with the development and standardization of our language, and help businesses, governments and other organizations in delivering high quality Inuit Language services to Nunavummiut."

To be eligible for appointment, individuals must demonstrate excellent fluency in the Inuit Language, have traditional or academic knowledge about the language, be familiar with more than one dialect, and have the capacity to assist with decision making on the future of our language. Members will be appointed by Cabinet based on the Minister's recommendation and the advice of a committee that includes equal representation from Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and the Government of Nunavut.

Nominations will be accepted from members of the public and organizations. For more information or to receive nomination forms, please visit the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth website at: www.gov.nu.ca/cley.

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For more information, contact:

Napatchie Kolola
Communications
Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth
(867) 975-5526
E-mail: nkolola@gov.nu.ca

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