



News Release

Quvianaqtut Unikkaar – Joyful Stories... 2009 Titiraliritti! Literary Prize Winners Announced

IQALUIT, Nunavut (May 15, 2009) – Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, today announced the winners of the 2009 Titiraliritti! Literary Prize. The theme for 2009 literary contest was *Quvianaqtut Unikkaar*, a joyful event stories.

Over 100 stories were submitted in either the general and youth categories.

“I would like to thank the authors who submitted their stories. There are many Nunavummiut with excellent written skills in the Inuit Language,” said Tapardjuk. “They play a very important role in the preservation of the Inuit Language, thank you!”

In the general category, Brian Koonoo from Pond Inlet won the first prize for the story *Sikujjiut*, a true story about an event that happen outside Pond Inlet on Narwhales, Veronique Nirlungayuk from Rankin Inlet won the second prize for the story *Qilaujjarniq Quviagijara*, a story about her father who taught drum dancing to preserve the culture, and Elizabeth Angutiqjuaq from Igloolik won the third prize for the story *Atulauqtara Tavva*, a story about hardship and starvation to how life is now. The first prize is \$5000, second prize is \$3000, and third prize is \$1000.

In the youth category, Maggie Aqpik, from Kimmirut, won an \$800 prize for the story *Ilinniaqtannik Pijariiqsitillunga Qaqqalik Ilinniarvingmi*, a story about graduating in high school in Kimmirut.

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth launched the annual literary prize to increase Inuktitut literature available for adult readers. An annual writing contest takes place with changing themes and prizes to encourage participation by Nunavummiut. A cash prize is awarded each year for the best stories.

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