



News Release

Nunavut Language Summit Announced

Iqaluit, Nunavut (November 13, 2009) - Louis Tapardjuk, Minister of Languages, today announced he will host a Nunavut Language Summit on February 8-12, 2010, in Iqaluit. The theme of the Summit will be *Uqausivut Atausiujjutivut - Our language brings us together*.

“The Government of Nunavut recently passed important legislation to promote and safeguard the use of the Inuit Language in our homeland, while continuing to protect the rights of those using English or French,” said Minister Tapardjuk. “The Nunavut Language Summit will bring together language stakeholders and experts from across Nunavut to refine implementation priorities and strategies for Nunavut’s *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.”

In establishing the ground work for a comprehensive implementation plan, the Minister recently concluded a series of regional roundtables held in collaboration with the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq and Qikiqtani Inuit Associations, along with the participation of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and Nunavut’s Languages Commissioner.

The roundtables brought together Inuit Language leaders from every Nunavut community. Participants were given an overview of the legislation and discussed ways to strengthen the vitality of the Inuit Language in every aspect of daily life. They also spoke of the standardization of the written language, while encouraging greater respect for its regional spoken forms.

In March 2009, the Minister attended the first Forum on French Language Services organized by the *Association des francophones du Nunavut*. The discussions identified specific issues and challenges to the minority French language community in Nunavut.

The Nunavut Language Summit will be open to representatives from Canada, other circumpolar regions, and international language specialists. The Summit will provide the forum to share lessons with respect to the revitalization and promotion of the Inuit Language, and the specific issues and challenges of French as a minority language in Canada’s Arctic.

The Summit will also be an opportunity to showcase community language best practices and various cultural activities promoting language.

Registration details and information about *Uqausivut Atausiujjutivut* will be posted at: <http://www.gov.nu.ca/cley>.

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For more information, contact:

Napatchie Kolola, Communications Manager
Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth
Tel: (867) 975-5526 email: nkolola@gov.nu.ca
<http://www.gov.nu.ca/cley>

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