



News Release

Taigusiliuqtiit Members Appointed

Iqaluit, Nunavut (November 18, 2009) – Louis Tapardjuk, Minister of Languages, today announced the appointment of five members to the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taigusiliuqtiit, an Inuit Language Authority established under the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

The appointed members include Ovide Alakanuark, Daisy Dialla, Edna Elias, Elijah Erkloo, and Nellie Kusugak. Each member will serve a three year term.

“My cabinet colleagues join me in welcoming the new Taigusiliuqtiit board members,” said Minister Tapardjuk. “Since passing our language legislation last year, we are quickly taking the necessary steps to protect the Inuit Language. We look forward to collaborating with Taigusiliuqtiit as we work together to develop and strengthen the use of the Inuit language in all sectors of Nunavut society.”

The mandate of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taigusiliuqtiit is to help expand the knowledge and expertise available with respect to the Inuit Language and to make important decisions about its use, development and standardization. The Board will further assist government and business in providing high quality Inuit Language information and services.

The call for nominations went out on May 1, 2009. The Department received 50 nominations from individuals and organizations. In choosing five members, the Minister of Languages sought advice from a committee consisting of equal members from the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and the Office of the Languages Commissioner.

Biographical notes are attached.

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<http://www.gov.nu.ca>.



Biographical notes

Ovide Alakanuark (Kuugaruk) is an active community member of his community. He tirelessly advocates for the use of the Inuit Language among youth. He has a vast knowledge of the Inuit Language, and understands other dialects. He is the Chairperson of Kuugaruk's Elder Society and local District Education Authority.

Daisy Dialla (Pangnirtung) is a well respected Elder from Pangnirtung. Daisy has 30 years of experience teaching Inuktitut, interviewing Elders on traditional terms, and training language professionals and educators.

Edna Elias (Qitirmiut) is an experienced Inuinnaqtun interpreter/translator, who also speaks Inuktitut. She's involved in language revitalization initiatives in the Qitirmiut region. She believes in the use of roman orthography as a tool to reverse the language shift among youth and bridge with other Inuit regions. She's originally from Kugluktuk, and has lived in Arctic Bay.

Elijah Erkloo (Qikiqtaaluk) has much experience in standardizing the Inuit Language. In the late 1960's, he closely worked with well known linguists and Inuit experts to develop a unified orthography for the Inuit language. Elijah has a high level fluency in Inuktitut and is excited to strengthen the Inuit language for the future.

Nellie Kusugak (Kivalliq) has a bachelor degree in education, and has over 30 years of teaching experience in Nunavut. She is a strong advocate of Inuit language literacy, and currently works at Nunavut Arctic College in Rankin Inlet as an adult educator. She understands the need to strengthen the use of the Inuit Language in every aspect of Nunavut society, particularly through its development and standardization.