



News Release

Consultations Launched on Implementation of Nunavut's New Language Laws

IQALUIT, Nunavut (September 25, 2009) – The Minister of Languages, Louis Tapardjuk, launched consultations this week in the Kitikmeot region to support the implementation of Nunavut's language legislation.

“Uqausivut Atausiujjutivut: Our languages unify us as Inuit and Nunavummiut,” said Tapardjuk. “The Government's mandate, *Tamapta*, outlines the importance of ensuring Nunavummiut are able to communicate in their preferred language. Working together with our regional, community and Inuit partners, we will develop a comprehensive plan that will strengthen the use of our languages in every part of our daily lives.”

The first roundtable, held in collaboration with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, wrapped up today in Cambridge Bay. “Today's roundtable on Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut is an encouraging sign that stakeholders are willing to work cooperatively to enhance this important part of our Inuit culture” said Charlie Evalik, President of Kitikmeot Inuit Association. “This is a top priority for our organization and the discussions and work we accomplish now will translate into a stronger revitalization strategy in the future.”

Community grassroots organizations, including elders, youth, educators, translators and language experts, were brought together for the two-day roundtable session. They discussed key issues and concerns regarding the vitality of the Inuit Language, and the steps needed to protect, promote and revitalize its use throughout the territory.

The Government of Nunavut is collaborating with Regional Inuit Associations in the Kivalliq and Qikiqtaaluk to identify key participants to take part in discussions at their regional roundtables.

Key findings from the consultations will be tabled by the Minister of Languages to the Legislative Assembly during the fall session. These events will lead up to a Nunavut Language Summit to be held February 2010 in Iqaluit. The purpose of the Summit is to combine the recommendations from the roundtables and finalize a plan that puts into effect the new language laws.

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For more information please call:

David Joanasie

Communications Officer

Culture, Language, Elders & Youth

djoanasie@gov.nu.ca or 867 975 5543