News Release

Report Sets Out National Goals for Inuit Education

OTTAWA, On (June 16, 2011) –The National Strategy on Inuit Education, proposing new initiatives to empower parents, expanding early childhood education programs and gathering detailed research data, was launched today in Ottawa.

Premier Eva Aariak, Minister of Education, today joined representatives from Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AAND), Nunatsiavut, Northwest Territories and the National Inuit Youth Council in launching this historic document. *First Canadians, Canadians First: The National Strategy on Inuit Education*, sets out 10 core recommendations.

These are national goals for the education of Inuit in early childhood, K-12 and post-secondary programs throughout the four Inuit regions of Canada, Nunavut, Nunavik (Northern Quebec), Nunatsiavut (Northern Labrador) and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region of the Northwest Territories.

“Our government agrees with this strategy in principle, and we look forward to working with ITK to determine the next steps in this process and to ensure everyone is aware of what will be required to eliminate the education gap for Inuit youth,” said Premier Eva Aariak. “It is important that we share best practices that come from implementing the Nunavut Education Act, a landmark piece of legislation that ensures bilingual education, inclusive education, school programs that include parental and community involvement and student assessment as key elements in the delivery of curriculum.”

The Strategy is the culmination of two years of intense work by the National Committee on Inuit Education (NCIE), which is made up of representatives from federal, provincial, territorial and regional governments, as well as school boards and regional and national Inuit organizations.

For a copy of *First Canadians, Canadians First: The National Strategy on Inuit Education*, please visit www.gov.nu.ca.

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Media Contact:

Emily Woods
Press Secretary to the Premier
Government of Nunavut

Tel: 867-975-5059
Email: ewoods@gov.nu.ca

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