



# News Release

## GN welcomes NTI Annual Report on State of Inuit Culture and Society

**IQALUIT (October 13, 2011)** – The Government of Nunavut welcomes yesterday's release of the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) 2009\10 Annual Report on the State of Inuit Culture and Society entitled *Our Primary Concern: Inuit Language in Nunavut*.

“Our culture begins and ends with the Inuit language and I welcome NTI’s latest report with great appreciation for the work they have done in exploring the issue in-depth,” said Premier Eva Aariak. I also look forward to continuing our work together to address the challenges and opportunities presented.”

The report primarily focuses on the vitality of Inuit language in Nunavut. The Government of Nunavut (GN) agrees with the report’s message that urgent action is required to prevent any further loss of our language in Nunavut.

The GN has shown great commitment to protecting and promoting the Inuit language creating an environment that is conducive to its use in education, work and in the services it delivers. In fact, few other governments in the world have put in place protection such as the GN has for the Inuit language.

“Nunavut was created on the premise that Inuit language and culture will be fully protected and promoted in the new Territory,” said the Honorable James Arreak, Minister of Languages.

“Nunavummiut now have tools, such as the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, to ensure that government and other organizations take concrete steps to revitalize and strengthen the use of the Inuit language throughout Nunavut society.”

In consultation with other departments and Inuit organizations the GN is finalizing, Uqausivut, a comprehensive plan to implement Nunavut’s language legislation. Throughout its development, comments were sought from individuals, organizations and businesses – more than 30 submissions were received. The government continues to welcome NTI, RIAs and other stakeholders to work with the GN to ensure these plans meet the requirements of the legislation.

“Each of us has a responsibility to use our language as much as possible in the home, workplace, and community, to help ensure it continues to be the cornerstone of our culture,” said Premier Aariak.

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