News Release

Minister of Languages & Nunavut Languages Commissioner Promote *Uqausirmut Quviasuutiqarniq*

Iqaluit, Nunavut (February 7, 2011) – James Arreak, Minister of Languages and Nunavut Languages Commissioner, Alexina Kublu, are endorsing the use of the Inuit Language during *Uqausirmut Quviasuutiqarniq* - *Inuit Language Week*, February 7-11, 2011.

"The Inuit Language is our own unique way of expressing ourselves and a wonderful reason to celebrate every day," said Minister Arreak.

"Nunavummiut have the right to use and be served in the official language of their choice from government offices," said Nunavut Languages Commissioner Alexina Kublu."The Official Languages Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act is only one aspect of the struggle to protect languages. The best way to ensure survival of a language is through regular use."

Different activities have been planned for the week throughout Nunavut:

- Schools have been sent information packages with Inuit Language activities;
- A set of language posters will be launched during *Uqausirmut Quviasuutiqarniq;*
- Government of Nunavut employees can enter an Inuktitut Word of the Day contest for a chance to win prizes; and,
- A Nunavut-wide Inuit Language Standardization Symposium will be hosted by the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit (Inuit Language Authority) in Iqaluit from February 8-11, 2011.

According to the Nunavut Statistics Bureau, Inuit Language use in Nunavut homes has declined from about 60 percent down to 53 percent in the last ten years. With that in mind, both the Minister of Languages and the Languages Commissioner are challenging Nunavummiut to reverse this trend, not only during *Uqausirmut Quviasuutiqarniq* but everyday.

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