

News Release

Annie Neglak Presented with Literacy Award

CAMBRIDGE BAY, NU (August 27, 2012) – Minister Keith Peterson, on behalf of Premier Eva Aariak, today presented Annie Neglak, of Cambridge Bay, with the 2012 Council of the Federation Literacy Award for Nunavut

"I would like to congratulate this year's Nunavut recipient of the Council of the Federation Award, Annie Neglak," said Premier Eva Aariak. "Returning to school in her mid-fifties, Annie completed her Adult Basic Education certificate and then a diploma in Social Services at Nunavut Arctic College, proving that it is never too late to begin the journey towards literacy."

The 2012 Premier's Council of the Federation of Literacy Award honours the achievements of an adult learner who has worked to promote their language and supported, encouraged and shared with others ways to strengthen their language skills. All recipients were first announced during the Council of the Federation meeting on <u>July 24, 2012</u>.

The Council of the Federation Literacy Award was created in 2004 by the Premiers of Canada to recognize the importance of literacy as a major factor in the ability of Canadians to participate as full and active citizens in all areas of society. Each recipient receives a certificate, signed by the Premier of their province or territory, as well as a Council of the Federation Literacy Award medallion.

 "I am very pleased to recognize Annie today as a leader in the field of literacy. Annie has said that it was not until she was in her fifties that she understood the meaning of literacy – to read and write with comprehension – and that it was a moment of understanding that changed her entire world. Her journey is an inspiration to people of all ages," said Minister Keith Peterson.

###

Biography of Annie Neglak attached.

Media Contact: Emily Woods, Press Secretary Office of the Premier 867-975-5059 ewoods@gov.nu.ca www.premier.gov.nu.ca

Biography

Annie Neglak – Nunavut

Annie Neglak spent her early years growing up as her ancestors had for many years – on the land near the outpost camp of Bathurst Inlet, in western Nunavut. Separated from her family and sent away to residential school, she was denied an education because she was considered "too old". Instead, she was put to work at the school. Neglak always desired not only to right this personal wrong, but also to advocate for her people. In her late fifties, she began the journey toward literacy. Neglak completed Adult Basic Education and then enrolled in the Social Services Worker Program at Nunavut Arctic College. She continued to return to Adult Basic Education for upgrades that allowed her to complete her college diploma. Neglak has become a passionate promoter of literacy. As an elder, she is a role model to all Inuit who struggle with adversity, and continues to gives back to her people.