



News Release

For Immediate Release

GN responds to NTI Report on Inuit Culture and Society

November 22, 2012

Iqaluit, NU – The Government of Nunavut (GN) welcomes the release of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's Report on the State of Inuit Culture and Society – The Status of Children and Youth.

"As the report makes clear, the future of Nunavut depends on ensuring the health and well-being of our children today," said Premier Eva Aariak. "The GN has made it a priority to ensure the government is better equipped to take action against the challenges confronting our children that the report describes."

The Government of Nunavut is in the midst of a fundamental restructuring that will create a new Department of Family Services. This new department will bring programs and services for children and their families under one roof. This will help ensure that the design and delivery of our responses are in keeping with the values and approaches of Nunavummiut.

The Government of Nunavut is also seeking to create a child and youth representative – independent from government – to hear the concerns of Nunavut's young people and advocate on their behalf. The representative will ensure that concrete actions are taken to safeguard children's rights and their well-being.

As the report makes clear, better housing for Nunavummiut is also essential to improve the lives of children and youth. The GN is developing a Long Term Comprehensive Housing and Homelessness Strategy. Additional sustained funding is required from the federal government, as is a committed partnership with Inuit organizations, hamlets and the private sector, to find solutions to overcrowding.

The NTI report also makes a number of recommendations regarding Nunavut's education system. These ideas, and the discussions they generate, are essential as the GN continues to build the education system in Nunavut to fully incorporate Inuit values, language and knowledge and to improve the academic achievement of students.

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