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News Release

For Immediate Release

Launch of 5544 French Services Line

IQALUIT, Nunavut (April 12, 2013) – The Government of Nunavut's Department of Culture and Heritage announced today the launch of the 5544 French Services telephone line, a referral service that provides information in French on a wide range of government programs and services.

"With the coming into force of the *Official Languages Act* on April 1, Line 5544 provides Francophones with an initial point of contact with their government in French," said James Arreak, Minister of Languages. "This initiative marks an important first step towards improving the effective and efficient delivery of government French language services in Nunavut."

Line 5544 will be operated by the Department of Culture and Heritage, in partnership with departments and public agencies. Francophones seeking information about services and programs provided by the Government of Nunavut can now call 867-975-5544 or send inquiries via email to: ligne5544@gov.nu.ca. Francophones residing outside of Iqaluit may call collect.

Approximately 1,205 people in Nunavut have the ability to speak French, the majority of which reside in Iqaluit and they represent 12% of the population.

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