



For Immediate Release

Veronique Nirlungayuk awarded the 2012 Nunavut Performing Arts Award

IQALUIT, Nunavut (March 26, 2013) – The Commissioner of Nunavut, Edna Elias, has awarded the first Performing Arts Award to Rankin Inlet performer Veronique Nirlungayuk.

Veronique Nirlungayuk started drawing as a small child and was then introduced to drum dancing by her late father, Bernard Iqqugaqtuq. She has won competitions with both her drawing and her drum dancing.

“Before, the Office of the Commissioner awarded Arts Awards. This year, I decided to change the award to the performing arts because it is an important part of Inuit culture and since there are so many up-and-coming young performers I wanted to promote the performing arts,” said Commissioner Elias. “Veronique Nirlungayuk has made a major contribution to the arts, as a drum dancer, an artist, an Inuit doll maker and a writer. I am pleased to present this award to this very talented Inuit artist.”

The youngest of seven daughters, Veronique Nirlungayuk now teaches drum dancing to her own children and to her granddaughter, so that the tradition that has been passed down for thousands of years can continue to flourish.

As well as the cash prize of \$10,000.00, Veronique Nirlungayuk will also receive a certificate and the Commissioner’s medallion.

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