ᑲᑐᑎᓗᒍ ᓄᓇᕗᑦ ᐱᕈᖅᐸᓕᐊᑎᓪᓗᒍ
Building Nunavut Together
Nunavuliuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

ᐅᖃᐅᓯᕐᓄᑦ ᑲᒥᓯᓇᕆᑦ ᐊᒻᒪᖕᒐᐊ ᓄᓇᕗᒻᒥ
Uqauhinut Kamisinaup Havakvia Nunavunmi
Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut
Bureau du Commissaire aux langues du Nunavut

News Release

For Immediate Release

Inuugatta Language Conference wraps up in Iqaluit

IQALUIT, Nunavut (Feb 27, 2014) - The *Inuugatta* Language Conference concluded this week in Iqaluit with a renewed commitment to the importance of Inuktut and its role in promoting Inuit social and cultural well-being.

“Inuktut defines who we are as Nunavummiut and Inuit across the Arctic,” said Minister of Languages George Kuksuk. “We must work together to plan the next steps to strengthen our language and our culture.”

The conference was jointly hosted by Languages Commissioner Sandra Inutiq and Minister of Languages George Kuksuk, in collaboration with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit. *Inuugatta* brought together over 70 participants from around Nunavut, and other areas of the circumpolar world and Canada.

“Nunavut recognizes the importance of our language to our cultural well-being as Inuit,” said Languages Commissioner Sandra Inutiq. “The *Official Languages Act* and *Inuit Language Protectio*n *Act* affirm the importance of our language rights, but it is important for Nunavummiut to use and exercise their rights for our language to thrive.”

During the conference, presentations and hands-on workshops focused on the status, history and importance of Inuktut today. The conference also reviewed lessons learned in the revitalization and protection of indigenous and vulnerable languages.

Outcomes from the conference include recommendations that will inform the government and its partners in planning the next steps to further revitalize and strengthen the use of Inuktut. This includes enhanced support for culture, arts and media, and addresses the needs for language standards in education, training and the development of materials.

A follow-up report will summarize the conference proceedings.

###

Media Contact:

Elizabeth Roberts
Communications Officer
Culture and Heritage
867-975-5543
EARoberts@gov.nu.ca

Vinnie Karetak
Public Affairs Officer
Office of the Languages Commissioner
867-975-5080
vkaretak@langcom.nu.ca

ᐱᕙᓪᓕᐊᔪᑦ ᑐᓴᒐᒃᓴᙳᖅᑎᑕᐅᔪᑦ ᐱᔭᐅᔪᓐᓇᖅᑕᖅᑐᑦ ᐃᓄᒃᑎᑑᖓᓗᑎᒃ, ᖃᓪᓗᓈᑎᑐᑦ, ᐃᓄᐃᓐᓇᖅᑐᓐ ᐅᐃᕖᑎᑐᓪᓗ ᐅᕙᓂ, *www.gov.nu.ca*.
News releases are available in Inuktitut, English, Inuinnaqtun and French on *www.gov.nu.ca*.
Tuhaqtaghat ittut Inuktitut, Qablunaatitut, Inuinnaqtun Uiviititullu talvani *www.gov.nu.ca*.
Les communiqués de presse sont disponibles en inuktitut, en anglais, en inuinnaqtun et en français à : *www.gov.nu.ca.*