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News Release

For immediate release

Uqausiit Pinnguarutiit: interactive Inuktut application for early readers

IQALUIT, Nunavut (March 8, 2017) – Nunavut Education Minister Paul Quassa today launched *Uqausiit Pinnguarutiit*, an interactive Inuktut application (app) for tablets or smartphones aimed at helping early readers.

"Early learning is the foundation of student success throughout school and beyond," said Minister Quassa. "The interactive nature of *Uqausiit Pinnguarutiit* will capture the interest of young children, and help them strengthen their literacy skills by building their knowledge of Inuktut."

Uqausiit Pinnguarutiit, Inuktitut for playing with words, is a language app that uses the interactive nature of a tablet's screen to show preschoolers the shapes of letters and syllabics, teach them to connect the sounds to the shapes and help them learn Inuktut words.

Uqausiit Pinnguarutiit was developed by the Department of Education with financial support from the Department of Culture and Heritage. Music from local musicians and Inuktut narration support the app's engaging graphics, and reflect Inuit culture and language.

The *Uqausiit Pinnguarutiit* app can be downloaded for free from iTunes and the Android Play Store.

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