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Building Nunavut Together
Nunavuliuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

News Release

For Immediate Release

Qilaut Songwriting Contest winners

IQALUIT, Nunavut (November 30, 2017) – The Department of Culture and Heritage is proud to announce the winners of Qilaut 2017. This year, the Department received a total of 23 songs from Nunavummiut youth. A panel of three musicians evaluated the songs for their originality, creativity, melody and lyrics.

“The Qilaut Inuktut songwriting contest is an excellent way to celebrate Nunavut’s exciting Inuktut music scene and promote the use of Inuktut in all areas of daily life,” said Minister of Culture and Heritage David Joanasie. “I am especially pleased that so many young Nunavummiut participated in this year’s contest. It demonstrates the vibrancy of our youth, and their pride in using Inuktut in creative ways. Thank you to everyone who submitted songs and congratulations to all of the winners!”

The top ten winning songs are:

1. *Qaigialaurit* by Leetia Kalluk from Arctic Bay
2. *Angijuq* by Joey Nowyuk from Pangnirtung
3. *Aullarniaqtunga* by Abraham Eetak from Arviat
4. *Kihingmiuqlunuk* by Abraham Eetak from Arviat
5. *Nagligijaugavit* by Corey Panika from Rankin Inlet
6. *Angirrarviga* by Angela Amarualik from Igloolik
7. *Ataata* by Colleen Nakashuk from Iqaluit
8. *Inuinnaujaami* by Gordon Kaniak from Kugluktuk
9. *Maanna* by Leetia Kalluk from Arctic Bay
10. *Hilami Ulapkiyami* by Gordon Kaniak from Kugluktuk

The top three winners will receive $5,000, $2,500 and $1,500 respectively, and the seven runners-up receive $500 each. All ten songs will be professionally recorded on a CD to be released in February during the *2018 Uqausirmut Quviasuutiqarniq*, Nunavut’s annual celebration of Inuktut.

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