

News Release

For Immediate Release

GN appeals NTI's language of instruction litigation to the Supreme Court

Iqaluit, Nunavut (November 1, 2024) – The Government of Nunavut (GN) has sought leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada against the August 28, 2024, decision of the Nunavut Court of Appeal. The decision rejected the GN's motion to strike Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's (NTI) litigation demanding Inuit language of instruction.

As directed by the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, the Department of Education is developing the curriculum and resources necessary to deliver education in Inuktut from kindergarten to Grade 12 by 2039.

"We're committed to ensuring all Nunavut students can attend school in Inuktut," said Premier P.J. Akeeagok. "Instead of lengthy and costly litigation, we ask NTI to come to the table so we can pool our resources and focus our energies on finding a solution that serves the interests of Nunavut students. Going to court is not the answer."

An appeal to the Supreme Court may be an avenue to settle the key legal issues in this litigation at relatively minimal cost to the parties.

"Department of Education staff are diligently working on the development of our Inuktut curriculum," said Minister of Education Pamela Hakongak Gross. "The GN shares the same goals as NTI. So much more can be accomplished by working together on the implementation of Inuktut education. The GN is committed to developing the curriculum and resources necessary for the education system that Nunavummiut want in all schools as soon as possible."

Media Contact:

Sima Sahar Zerehi Chief of Strategic Operations Office of the Premier P.J. Akeeagok 867-975-5059 szerehi6@gov.nu.ca Matthew Illaszewicz
Director, Stakeholder Engagement
Department of Education
867-975-5649
info.edu@gov.nu.ca