

March 27, 2013

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Kinguvaasaliuqtut  
Language Society  
Quqshuun Iliharvik  
Box 220  
Gjoa Haven, NU  
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Sept 9/13

To Jeannie Ugyuk  
Nattilik MLA, (Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak)

Regarding: Nattilingmiutut Curriculum needs

As you know, the teachers in the East Qitirmiut are required to teach the curriculum in their Inuit language dialect/ Nattilingmiutut.

However, presently there is very little curriculum available in Nattilingmiutut. The teachers in the region have started working with a group of Nattilingmiutut elders (newly formed language society)

Since February of this year, there have been two very productive working sessions. The meetings have included both teachers and elders from the three eastern Qitirmiut communities. The teachers require accurate vocabulary and knowledge from the elders in order to develop Nattilingmiutut teaching curriculum. They also want the Nattilingmiutut terminology in the curriculum to be consistent within the three communities so that materials developed by the teachers can be shared between the schools.

This group of teachers and elders are committed to the work of revitalizing and strengthening the use of Nattilingmiutut into the next generation. They are asking for support for this goal.

They would like to continue this work and have regular meetings to move forward in the work of having a Nattilingmiutut curriculum available for teachers. They want Nattilingmiutut to be strong, to promote and protect this dialect. To do this, it would be most appropriate to rotate any face-to-face working sessions between the three communities. The meetings need to be as frequent as possible throughout the next school years because the task is so big and time is so small. There needs to be at least two elders from each community providing the Nattilingmiutut language and knowledge for this working group as well as teachers from each community.

Please also note that we have found it beneficial to have Nattilingmiutut consultants (Hadlari Consulting), assist in the facilitation of this process, and would like to see this connection continue in order for us to continue to move forward in this work.

Teachers have been given a very important role in regards to strengthening, revitalizing, and protecting the language. This request for support is not a luxury but a basic requirement for the teachers to be able to do their job.

We are asking you, our MLA, to be an advocate for this work, and that the appropriate government department will commit to continue to fund this important process.

Respectfully,

Pd

CT CCO

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Maria Nipoyak

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May 11

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cc John Ningark, MLA