



**Response to the Standing Committee on
the Review of the 2013-2014 Annual
Report of the Language Commissioner
of Nunavut and the 2012-2013, 2013-2014
and 2014-2015 Annual Reports of the
Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit**

The Honourable Pat Angnakak, MLA
Chair
Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations & Public Accounts
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
P.O. Box 1200,
926 Federal Road
Iqaluit, Nunavut
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June 28th, 2016

Dear Ms. Angnakak,

On behalf of the Government of Nunavut, I am pleased to respond to the Standing Committee on the Review of the 2013-2014 Annual Report of the Language Commissioner of Nunavut and the 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Annual Reports of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit pursuant to Rule 91(5) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut*.

The Government has reviewed and given careful consideration to the Standing Committee Report as a whole and to the Standing Committee's recommendations pertaining to the Government's responsibilities. The Government finds that these recommendations are consistent in advancing its mandate to protect, promote and revitalize the Inuit Language, French and English.

The following sections provide information on the Government's responses to the recommendations addressed to the Government of Nunavut.

Standing Committee Recommendation # 1:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut make every effort to produce and table its annual reports in the Legislative Assembly within the timeframes that are statutorily mandated under the territory's language legislation.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut provide, in its response to this report, a detailed timeline in which it will table its 2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2014-2015 annual reports on its administration of the territory's language legislation in the Legislative Assembly.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut begin the practice of including annual progress reports on its administration of the Uqausivut implementation plan as a separate section within its annual report under the territory's language legislation.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut provide, in its response to this report, a detailed timeline in which it will

finalize and table an updated version of its statutorily mandated implementation plan.

Response:

The Minister of Languages will be tabling the 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 annual reports relating to the administration of the territory's language legislation on August 20, 2016 pending approval. Each report will contain detailed information on results achieved in implementing the priorities of Uqausivut, particularly with respect to French and the Inuit Language.

The Department of Culture and Heritage is further completing an evaluation of what has been accomplished to date in Uqausivut, and to determine the extent to which the goals, objectives and intended outcomes have been achieved. This evaluation will inform the next version of Uqausivut, which we anticipate to table in the Legislative Assembly during the winter sitting pending approval,.

Standing Committee Recommendation # 4:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut provide, in its response to this report, a detailed timeline by which it will publish regulations under section 38 of the Official Languages Act and section 44 of the Inuit Language Protection Act.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut develop and implement its regulations and procedures concerning subsection 38(1)(h) in consultation with the Office of the Languages Commissioner.

Response:

The Minister of Languages is prepared to work towards the development of regulations that outline expected language services and communications for all municipalities according to their respective significant demand. Work began during the 2015-16 fiscal year and will continue into the 2016-17 fiscal year with an anticipated implementation date of April 1, 2017. The regulations would take into account options that would outline what "significant demand" means for each of Nunavut's communities. The Department of Culture and Heritage will continue to consult with Community and Government Services along with Nunavut's municipalities on the regulations, and is committed to consult with the Office of the Languages Commissioner prior to Legislative submission.

Standing Committee Recommendation # 10:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut provide, in its response to this report, a detailed timeline in which it plans to complete and implement its new language proficiency incentive.

The standing committee further recommends that the Government of Nunavut provide, in its response to this report, a detailed account of any Inuit language training programs and assessments that will be developed and implemented in association with its new language proficiency incentive.

Response:

The Government of Nunavut anticipate the full implementation of the Inuit Language Incentive Program starting in 2017-2018.

The Department of Culture and Heritage and the Department of Finance have been collaborating with the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit on this important initiative. The Taiguusiliuqtiit has prepared a survey to collect baseline data on the level of language proficiency in Inuktitut within the public service, and will be administered to GN employees this Summer. The Taiguusiliuqtiit has further finalized language proficiency assessment tools in North Baffin, South Baffin and Inuinnaqtun dialects, and is adapting them for Kivalliq and Nattilik dialects during the current fiscal year.

Since 2013-14, the Government of Nunavut has implemented enhanced Inuit language training programs, including the creation of a high quality, multi-level Inuktitut Second Language (ISL) program as well as a range of courses for Inuktitut First Language (IFL) and the beginning of a new Inuktitut Language Revitalization (ILR) program, along with the creation of several language learning materials and tools. As the Government of Nunavut prepares the next Uqausivut Plan, new language training initiatives will be considered, including options for language immersion or other types of intensive language training programs.

Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit

The following are responses to the recommendations addressed to the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit.

Standing Committee Recommendation # 6:

The standing committee further recommends that the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit begin the practice of including in its annual reports, beginning with its 2015-2016 annual report, a detailed account of its activities and plans to publicize its roles and the resources that it may provide.

The standing committee further recommends that the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit provide, in its response to this report, a detailed account of the information that is included in its terminology database.

The standing committee further recommends that the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit provide, in its response to this report, a detailed timeline in which it will launch its website.

The standing committee further recommends that the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit establish procedures pursuant to subsection 17(2) of the Inuit Language Protection Act to provide departments and organizations with clear direction on the process by which entities may request and receive assistance from the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit.

Response:

Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit will ensure that they offer materials and resources that they develop in accordance with the statutory mandate to publish, promote and maintain a database of all the standardized terminology or expressions in the Inuit Language.

A detailed account of activities and plans to publicize its roles and resources will be included. Once the Manager of Languages Marketing position is filled, these will be his or her responsibilities. The terminology database will be available through their website at taiguusiliuqtiit.nu.ca; English and Inuktitut is on live and we expect French and Inuinnaqtun to start once English and Inuktitut has been finalized.

Pursuant to section 17(2) of the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit will establish procedures so they can receive requests and respond to them accordingly. These request forms will be available on their website and can also be received through e-mail correspondence.

Standing Committee Recommendation # 7:

The standing committee recommends that the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit begin the practice of including in its annual reports, beginning with its 2015-2016 annual report, detailed accounts of its activities, expenditures and plans in relation to travel.

Response:

The Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit appreciates the need to provide the highest level of transparency possible when disclosing the purpose and outcome of its expenditures and as a result, will begin the practice of including detailed accounts of its activities, expenditures and plans in relation to travel with its 2015-2016 annual report.

Standing Committee Recommendation # 8:

The standing committee recommends that the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit begin the practice of including in its annual reports, beginning with

its 2015-2016 annual report, more comprehensive information on its activities, publications, priorities and future plans.

Response:

To ensure transparency in the allocation of public funds, Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit has begun the practice of including in its annual reports, beginning with its 2015-2016 annual report, more comprehensive information on its activities, publications, priorities and future plans. This annual report will be completed in December 2016.

Standing Committee Recommendation # 9:

The standing committee recommends that the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit provide, in its response to this report, a detailed account of the proficiency assessments that it is currently developing and planning to develop in collaboration with the Government of Nunavut, including information on the specific dialects that will be focused on in the development of these assessments.

The standing committee recommends that the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit provide, in its response to this report, a detailed timeline in which it will complete these proficiency assessments.

Response:

Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit will provide a detailed account of the proficiency assessments that it has developed and is planning to develop in collaboration with the Government of Nunavut, including information on the specific dialects that will be focused on, in the development of these assessments.

So far, the dialects that have been developed are from north Baffin, south Baffin and Inuinnaqtun with the assistance from Pirurvik. This year Paallirmiut and Nattilingmiut will be developed making the proficiency assessments in five dialects all together. It is expected that the proficiency assessments for Paallirmiut and Nattilingmiut will be completed within the current fiscal year.

In conclusion, I would like to thank and commend the Standing Committee for the time dedicated to their review on the 2013-2014 Annual Report of the Language Commissioner of Nunavut and the Annual Reports of the Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit.

Ma'na,

Hon. George Kuksuk
Minister of Languages