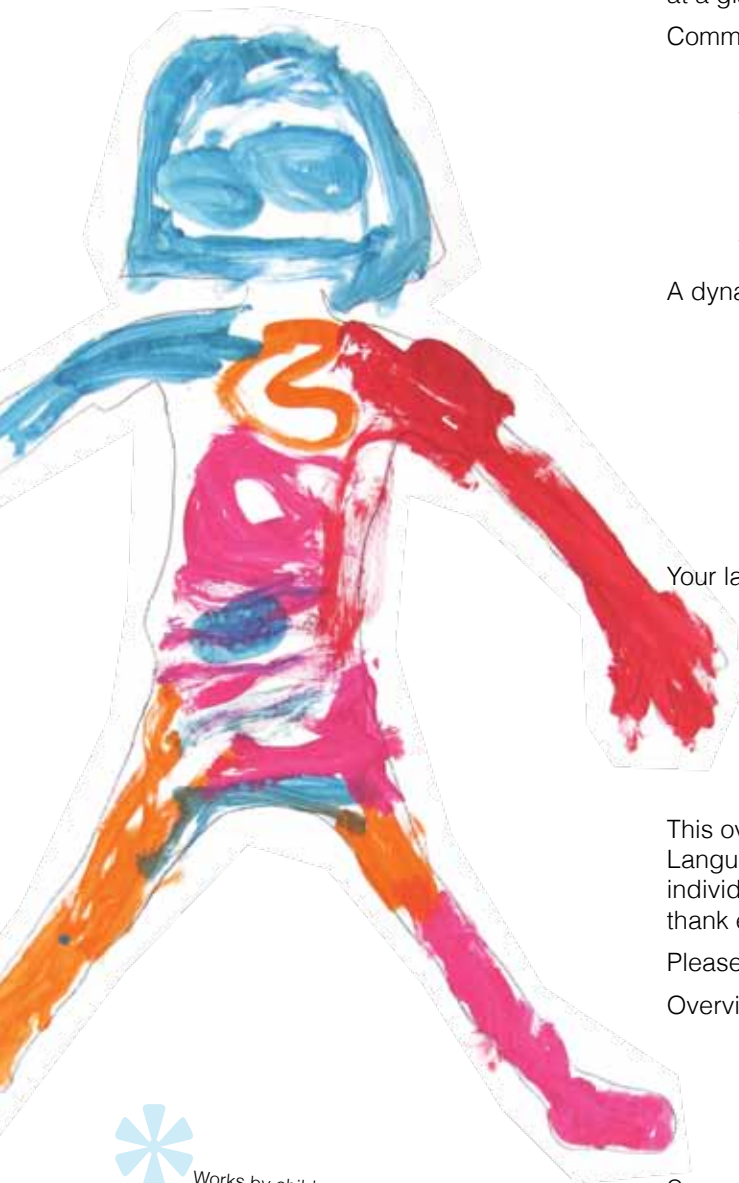


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This overview was made possible thanks to the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth (CLEY) and various (government, community and individual) partners who agreed to participate in the project. We would like to thank everyone involved in the project, in any way, shape or form.

Please send us your comments, questions and suggestions.

Overview coordinator:

Mylène Bellerose
☎: (867) 975-5529
✉: (867) 975-5523
✉: mbelleroseCL@gov.nu.ca
<http://www.cley.gov.nu.ca>



Works by children from the Petits Nanooks
Early Childhood Centre

Government of Nunavut, March 2012

James Arreak
Minister of Languages



MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF LANGUAGES

I am pleased to present this Overview of Francophonie in Nunavut. We are taking the 2012 edition of the Rendez-vous de la Francophonie as an opportunity to publish this first overview. From March 9 to March 25, 2012, 9.5 million Francophones and francophiles across Canada will celebrate language and culture.

This year's theme for the Rendez-vous de la Francophonie, "Understanding builds a better future," definitely applies to Nunavut. Francophones contribute to the territory's cultural diversity. From this perspective, the Government of Nunavut is proud to showcase the vitality of its Francophone community through this overview.

We hope you will learn from the articles, profiles and information on Nunavut francophonie, and that you will find in them inspiring Francophone models.

James Arreak
Ministre des Langues

MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES TEAM

All year long, an energetic team at the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth (CLEY) works on Francophone issues. Its two main areas of interest are French-language services and support for the Francophone community.

This overview is meant to present a picture of francophonie in Nunavut today. It includes Francophone employee profiles, a snapshot of French-language services from the Government of Nunavut, information on Francophone community organizations and interviews with Francophones from different walks of life.

Happy reading!



Michel Potvin, Manager of French Services, Mylène Bellerose, Program Officer (French Services), and Stéphane Cloutier, Director of Official Languages, at the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.



DID YOU KNOW...



IN THE FRANCO-NUNAVUT FLAG,

THE BLUE REPRESENTS THE SKY, THE WHITE REPRESENTS SNOW, THE INUKSUK REPRESENTS THE PRESENCE OF HUMANS IN THE TERRITORY, AND THE DANDELION REPRESENTS FRANCOPHONE TENACIOUSNESS AND PERSEVERANCE?

FRENCH IS THE MOTHER TONGUE OF ABOUT **415** NUNAVUMMIUT, MOST OF WHICH LIVE IN IQALUIT?

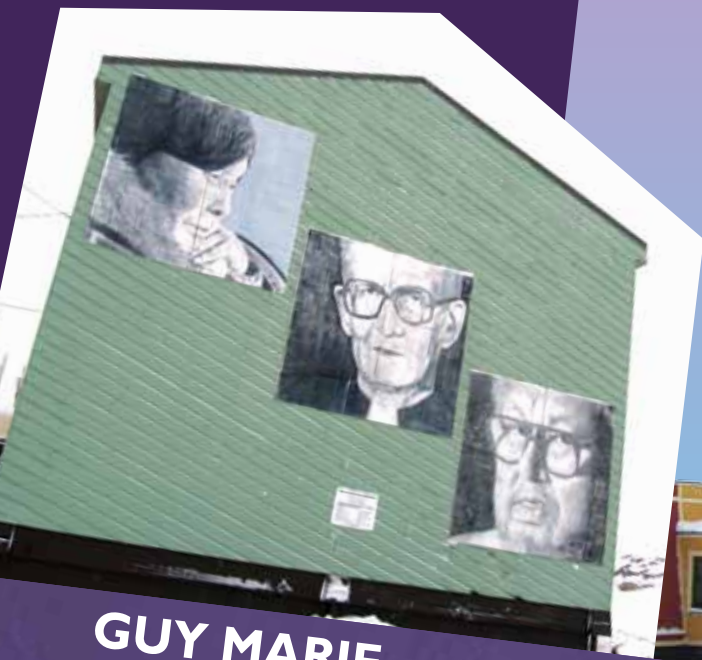
1200 PEOPLE SPEAK FRENCH IN THE TERRITORY (THIS NUMBER INCLUDES FRANCOPHILES AND PEOPLE WHO SPEAK FRENCH AS A FIRST LANGUAGE)?

160 INUIT OF NUNAVUT CAN CARRY ON A CONVERSATION IN INUKTITUT, FRENCH AND ENGLISH?

FRANCOPHONES ARE CALLED **UIVIIT** IN INUKTITUT BECAUSE THEY OFTEN ANSWER: "OUI, OUI!"?

IN 1887, **PAUL RACINE** WAS PROBABLY THE FIRST TRILINGUAL INUK — INUKTITUT/ FRENCH/ENGLISH?

FRANCOPHONES, SUCH AS **JOSEPH-ELZÉAR BERNIER AND WILFRID CARON**, WHO CAME TO THE ARCTIC AT THE TURN OF THE 20TH CENTURY, HAVE BEEN RECORDED IN THE ORAL HISTORY OF SOME NUNAVUT INUIT?



GUY MARIE-ROUSSELIÈRE, A MISSIONARY OBLATE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO TOPONYMY AND ARCHAEOLOGY IN NUNAVUT, IS DEPICTED ON AN IQALUIT BUILDING?



THE TROIS-SOLEILS SCHOOL IS **THE NORTHERNMOST FRANCOPHONE SCHOOL IN THE WORLD?**

NEWS

FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF NUNAVUT... IN FRENCH!

FRENCH AT THE LIBRARY

Simon Cuerrier has been working at the Iqaluit Public Library for three years. As a librarian, he mainly deals with inter-library loans, magazines and labelling. The library offers many Francophone resources: "All of the French publications are grouped together. The Francophone collection includes novels, documentaries, children's books and comics." He also mentioned there are French resources in the audiovisual section, such as French CDs and movies. In addition, a monthly French activity for children is organized by volunteers. Another interesting service available to Nunavut Francophones is inter-library loans. In essence, there are several resources for French reading and entertainment in Nunavut!



Simon Cuerrier, a librarian from the Iqaluit Public Library, in front of the French book section.



Robert Connelly at the Rankin Inlet Canada Business Nunavut Service Centre.

BUSINESS SUPPORT

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation has created a business development branch, managed by Éric Doiron. His work consists of supervising economic development initiatives throughout the territory on behalf of the Department. In addition to helping develop the Department's direction in this area, he manages two funding programs: strategic investment and support for small businesses: "We work with several regional and territorial partners to offer our services to the public." Robert Connelly manages community economic development in the Kivalliq region. He has been working for the Government of Nunavut since it was first created. He administers various economic development programs, which are available to both individuals and businesses in the region: "Our mandate is to stimulate the economy by funding projects in very different areas, such as the cultural industry, small business, mining, tourism and training projects." The Canada Business Nunavut Service Centre is a precious resource that can provide additional information on the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's programs and resources: "The Centre provides services in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay in all of Nunavut's official languages."



Julie Massicotte, nurse practitioner at the Iqaluit Family Practice Clinic.

THE WORK OF THE FAMILY PRACTICE CLINIC

The Qikiqtani General Hospital is not the only option Iqaluit residents have for health care: there is also a Family Practice Clinic. Julie Massicotte has been working there as a nurse practitioner for two and a half years. The Clinic shares its facilities with the Public Health Centre. In her position, Julie can prescribe some medications, order basic diagnostic tests and refer patients to other health care professionals. The Family Practice Clinic's role is to offer primary health care and ensure continued follow-up with the same health care professional, to the extent possible. The Clinic complements the hospital: "We provide follow-ups for pregnancy and chronic diseases, among other things. We also have initiatives outside the Clinic's walls. For example, a nurse practitioner works with the public health clinic to offer services at Inuksuk High School." As there are Francophone nurses at the clinic, consultations may be done in French: "People can simply ask for a Francophone nurse at reception."

FRENCH COURSES PILOT PROJECT

The Department of Human Resources has launched a pilot project offering French courses to its employees. It provided 30 hours of French instruction in October and November 2011, in partnership with the Association des francophones du Nunavut. Employees received French instruction at their respective levels, twice a week. One of the students in the intermediate course, Signi Frederickson, really liked the experience. Her work as a home-care and community nurse brings her to the homes of Francophone patients, some of which do not speak any English. This course increased her confidence in her French speaking abilities and reinforced what she knew: "We learned specialized vocabulary while learning to talk about our jobs. Then, we learned to handle everyday real-life situations in French, such as answering the phone, sending an email, etc." The course met her expectations: "The teacher motivated us and wasn't at all intimidating," she said.



Signi Frederickson, a Department of Health and Social Services employee, improved her French skills thanks to a course taken through the Government of Nunavut.



Léonie Aissaoui, the Department of Education's Director of French Education and Services.

TEACHING FRENCH IN FRENCH : THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S BUREAU OF EDUCATION AND FRENCH SERVICES

As the Bureau of Education and French Services (BEFS) manager for over two years, Léonie Aissaoui promotes French-language education in addition to teaching French as a second language. The BEFS is responsible for implementing the French aspects of the *Education Act*. It also sees to the promotion of the French language and supports schools who offer French courses. The BEFS works with various partners, such as the Association canadienne d'éducation de langue française (ACELF), the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), the Western and Northern Canadian Protocol (WNCP) and the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT). As such, Nunavut has representation among various working committees, thus ensuring that it has a national presence and that the special needs and distinctive character of a French-language education in Nunavut are duly taken into consideration in territorial and pan-Canadian curriculum development activities. "We are currently working on developing a pan-Canadian framework for cultural appropriation in French-language schools," said Ms. Aissaoui. One of the BEFS's greatest successes is undoubtedly setting up the intensive French program at Aqsarniit Middle School in Iqaluit: "We've had very good results. The students are improving and the program focuses on developing skills rather than merely acquiring knowledge. These skills may also be of use to students in other school subjects."



THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'S CORNER

The Department of Justice offers French-language services in two areas: legislation and access to justice in French. As far as legislation goes, the Department translates laws adopted by the Legislative Assembly. It also publishes the Nunavut Gazette in French and English. The Gazette provides access to decisions the Legislative Assembly makes for Nunavummiut. As for access to justice, the Department ensures that trials take place in French, when needed. This is done by means of a French recording secretary and interpreter at the Court of Justice. An energetic team ensures these services are provided to the public.



Nunavut Justice Centre in Iqaluit.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND INTERDEPARTMENTAL COLLABORATION FOR FRANCOPHONIE

VISIT FROM THE CANADIAN FRANCOPHONIE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NETWORK

March 2012 will be a very busy month in Nunavut, in terms of francophonie. In addition to activities related to the Rendez-vous de la Francophonie, Iqaluit will host a meeting for Canadian Francophonie Intergovernmental Network (Network) representatives on March 14 and 15, which will be a first for Nunavut. The Network, which was established in 1991, is made up of civil servants from the federal government and from each province and territory. The Network's primary mandate is to support the directions that ministers from the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie (MCCF) have established.

The MCCF, which was created in 1994, brings together ministers from the provinces and territories who are responsible for questions and issues related to Canadian Francophone affairs, as well as the federal minister responsible for official languages. This intergovernmental forum plays a lead role, and its members work together to advance Canadian francophonie. Among other things, the MCCF allows for an exchange of best practices for the delivery of French-language services. Nunavut has been an MCCF member since 2000 and actively participates. The next Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie will take place on June 26 and 27, 2012, in Edmonton, Alberta.



2011 conference in Dieppe-Moncton, New Brunswick.

1st row: Pierre Moreau (Quebec), Glenn Hart (Yukon), Madeleine Meilleur (Ontario), Paul Robichaud (New Brunswick), Cynthia Dunsford (Prince Edward Island), Bernard Valcourt (federal government), Naullaq Arnaquq (Nunavut), Tony Cornect (Newfoundland and Labrador).

2nd row: Graham Steele (Nova Scotia), Hector Goudreau (Alberta), John Les (British Columbia), Jackson Lafferty (Northwest Territories), Wayne Elhard (Saskatchewan), Guy Jourdain (Manitoba).



Some members of the Interdepartmental Working Group on French Services: Michel Potvin, Jocelyn St-Amand, Laurie-Anne White, Marie-Josée Joyal, François Picotte, Cameron DeLong, Mylène Bellerose and Éric Corneau.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON FRENCH SERVICES

In 2010, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth (CLEY) set up an Interdepartmental Working Group on French Services.

The Working Group includes the main public agencies and a French services coordinator from each department, and meets on a monthly basis to discuss different issues related to the Government of Nunavut's delivery of French-language services. The Working Group has shown itself to be an invaluable collaboration tool for discussing current affairs with the ultimate goal of effectively and efficiently delivering French services in Nunavut. At this time, the coordinators are helping CLEY with the implementation process for Nunavut's *Official Languages Act*.

The French services coordinators are as follows:

Léonie Aissaoui	Education	(867) 975-5627
Mylène Bellerose	Culture, Language, Elders and Youth	(867) 975-5529
Eric Corneau	Nunavut Arctic College	(867) 975-2542
Cameron DeLong	Environment	(867) 975-7725
Jacques Fortier	Justice	(867) 975-6175
Mario Fournier	Finance	(867) 975-5809
Marie-Josée Joyal	Human Resources	(867) 975-6249
Robert Nevin	Health and Social Services	(867) 975-4819
François Picotte	Economic Development and Transportation	(867) 975-7825
Michel Potvin	Culture, Language, Elders and Youth	(867) 975-5502
Jocelyn St-Amand	Community and Government Services	(867) 975-6443
Laurie-Anne White	Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs	(867) 975-6054





FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF NUNAVUT AT A GLANCE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

For information on French services offered by the Department, contact the Bureau of Education and French Services by phone at (867) 975-5627 or by email at bef@gov.nu.ca.

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, LANGUAGE, ELDERLY AND YOUTH

The Iqaluit Public Library is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For further information in French, visit the following website: <http://www.publiclibraries.nu.ca/french/>.

The Department also has a grant and contribution program available for community projects promoting the development of French in Nunavut. For more information in French, call (867) 975-5500 or visit: <http://www.cley.gov.nu.ca/fr/GrantIntro.aspx>.

NUNAVUT ARCTIC COLLEGE

For information about the college's programs and activities, contact Judith Paradis-Pastori, Dan Page at (867) 979-7200 or Eric Corneau at (867) 975-2542.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

The Department of Finance is responsible for answering questions from the public about the tax on wages and salaries, and regulations for the sale of alcohol. Contact the Department at (867) 975-5800 and ask to speak to Mario Fournier.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

For more information on Nunavut parks, visit this website: <http://www.nunavutparks.com>.

The Department has also prepared a French homeowner's guide for inspecting heating oil tanks. You can find it online by searching: "Guide illustré d'inspection des réservoirs d'huile de chauffage."

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TRANSPORTATION

For more information about Department of Economic Development & Transportation programs, call (867) 975-7800 and ask to speak to a French-speaking employee. You can also contact the Canada Business-Nunavut Service Centre at 1 888 576-4444.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

For information about the Department's activities, contact Jacques Fortier at (867) 975-6175.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

For health services in French, contact Iqaluit's Family Practice Clinic, which has Francophone nurse practitioners, at (867) 975-4800.

DEPARTMENT OF EXECUTIVE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

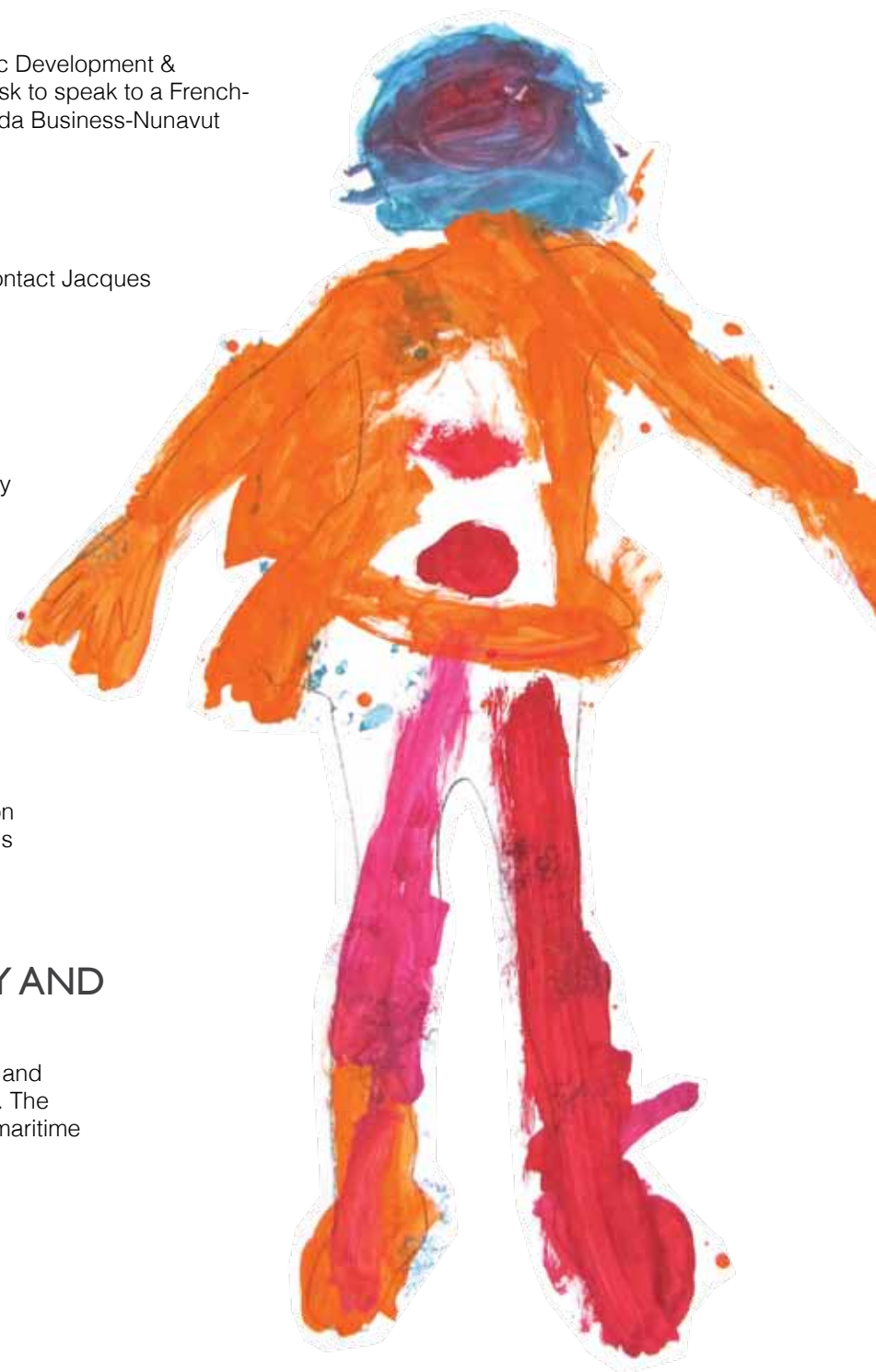
The Department is in charge of access to information and protection of privacy. A French document on this matter can be found at:

<http://www.eia.gov.nu.ca/PDF/directory2009f.pdf>.

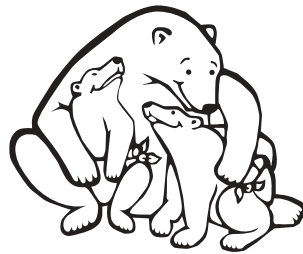
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES

For frontline services in French, call (867) 975-5400 and ask to speak to Jocelyn St. Amand or Gord Declerq. The Department has also published a French guide on maritime transportation (sealift), which is available at

<http://www.gov.nu.ca/files/business/sealift/htsf.pdf>.



COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AT YOUR SERVICE!



LES PETITS NANOOKS EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE THE WELLSPRING OF THE FRANCO- NUNAVUMMIUT COMMUNITY

Les Petits Nanooks Early Childhood Centre (ECC) opened its doors in 2002 thanks to the involvement of a group of Francophone parents from Iqaluit, the Association des francophones du Nunavut and the Trois-Soleils school. Les Petits Nanooks is a Francophone centre that gives priority to children with a Francophone parent. Les Petits Nanooks is a non-profit organization with a valid permit. It is for children aged two to five. Several children are of Inuit descent and live in French here in the Far North.

Les Petits Nanooks ECC offers eligible children a high-quality Francophone daycare service that encourages physical, emotional, intellectual and social development, so they can participate in Franco-Nunavummiut community life and contribute to Nunavut's as well as Canada's socio-economic development.

Daily life at Les Petits Nanooks ECC hinges on a plethora of tools for children and their parents.

The tools include:

- The francization educational program;
- Francization kits;
- Introductory and follow-through kits intended for parents;
- The Petits Nanooks monthly newsletter.

By choosing Les Petits Nanooks for your children, you give them the chance to:

- Play, sing and express themselves in French in a Francophone environment during key years for intellectual and social awakening, and linguistic and cultural development;
- Establish a link between their family life and their French-language educational setting;
- Make friends with little Francophone classmates and meet other families;
- Develop a sense of pride for their language and culture, and develop their identity and sense of belonging to the Francophone world;
- Ease their transition to French-language kindergarten.

For more information, check the Petits Nanooks ECC website: www.petitsnanooks.ca. It has information on the centre's programs, policies, employees and many future projects.



Association des
francophones
du Nunavut

THE ASSOCIATION DES FRANCOPHONES DU NUNAVUT

YES, FRENCH IS ALIVE HERE!

In 1981, a handful of Francophones joined forces to found the Association des francophones de Frobisher Bay (AFFB). The association's humble beginnings consisted of pizza nights and watching Hockey Night in French. In 1987, the AFFB became the Association francophone d'Iqaluit (AFI) and further strengthened its status as a community organization representing the interests of the Francophone community. Nineteen ninety-eight was a turning point: the AFI acquired House 981, which the Franco-Centre calls home to this day, thus providing the Francophone community with a permanent meeting place. Achievements soon followed: the P'tit Echo newspaper was started up (1988); the first employee was hired (1990); the program for French as a first language was established (1993); and CFRT 107.3, a Francophone community radio station, was inaugurated (1994).

In 1999, when Nunavut was created, the AFI officially became the Association des francophones du Nunavut (AFN). Wonderful community projects followed suit: the Trois-Soleils school was inaugurated (2001); Les Petits Nanooks Francophone daycare was opened (2002); and the Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut was created (2004).

The Franco-Centre, our community and cultural centre, has a multidisciplinary calling, but the performing arts (musical performances, theatre and dance) and visual arts (photo and painting exhibits) are especially popular. It is a favoured rallying point for local artists who want to practice their art, and for local organizations that need a room in which to present their cultural activities.

Here are some examples of French activities for entertainment and coming together at the Franco-Centre: Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day, corn boils, lobster and oyster dinners, Friday lunches and the sugarhouse. These activities are always great opportunities for sharing and celebrating as a community. The Centre also hosts many special events, such as the Alianait Arts Festival and the Rendez-vous de la francophonie, diverse and entertaining shows, art exhibits, theme nights, conferences, plays and youth activities.

Become a member and access several benefits: discounts for plane tickets and activities, and free movie rentals.

Useful email address : vieculturelle@nunafranc.ca.





RESEFAN held a session on cultural and linguistic skills, in partnership with CLEY's French Services team, in April 2011. Organization officials and department service coordinators were present.

RESEFAN

OUR HEART IS IN THE RIGHT PLACE!

RESEFAN (Nunavut's French Health Services Network) is a corporation that was founded in Nunavut in 2009. It brings together health care professionals and care providers; workers and professionals from education, social services and various other employment areas; and health-concerned citizens. In short, RESEFAN's areas of involvement include the well-being of the Francophone community, the health status of its members, and health and social service access issues.

Being involved in these areas means seeking the funding and resources that are needed to set up sustainable programs and initiatives, such as research on the health status of Francophones, on services offered to them and on their health care expectations. It also means organizing or supporting health promotion and disease prevention activities.

Over the years, RESEFAN's employees or volunteers have been involved in activities like adult badminton, family pool fun, youth Saturdays, hiking, H1N1 shots, and education on chronic or infectious diseases.

By publishing and distributing posters, a newsletter and promotional materials on health services and health care available from French-speaking health care professionals, RESEFAN stimulates the active offer of services in French

RESEFAN also voices its opinion on political and social issues related to health and well-being. It put together briefs regarding the implementation of Nunavut's *Official Languages Act* and the *Public Health Act* reform, to name but two recent examples. RESEFAN highlights the need for programs and services that are tailored to the Francophone



community's language and culture, while sharing achievements and lessons from similar movements in other provinces and territories.

Conditions for involvement in Nunavut are not all on our side, as the Department of Health and Social Services (HSS) is experiencing a major human resources shortage with about one-third of openings not being filled. In light of this, RESEFAN helps the HSS recruit medical staff, jointly funds professional positions for the Francophone school system, hires people from outside Nunavut for short-term stays and helps the Petits Nanooks Early Childhood Centre improve living conditions at the daycare.

RESEFAN, using an approach centred on co-operating with other local organizations, has become a reference point and an advocate for the community, for topics related to health and well-being.

Daniel Hubert, Director

☎: (867) 222-2107

✉: resefan.nu@gmail.com

www.resefan.ca



Partner from Kimmirut at a Qulliq ceremony. *Simon Couturier*

Bed and breakfast training. *Dominique Husereau*

Ice-fishing activity. *Simon Couturier*

CARREFOUR NUNAVUT FOR THE LOVE OF NUNAVUT



The Conseil de Coopération du Nunavut (CCN), established in 2009, is a non-profit organization committed to community economic development. The CCN's corporate name is **Carrefour Nunavut** (for: *Care for Nunavut*). Simply put, this name also makes you think of an intersection and of pooling ideas to allow a richer distribution of stakeholder partnerships. Carrefour Nunavut's mission is to facilitate sustainable development and social entrepreneurship in communion with Northern cultures and residents, while promoting the interests of Nunavut's Francophone community. Carrefour Nunavut is engaged in three main areas of activity that converge and coalesce during certain projects: social entrepreneurship, tourism and employability.

Nunavut has set up a dozen ecotours in Nunavut's capital, from producing promotional visual material for its partners to creating partnerships with colleges, institutes and tourism organizations in Nunavut and the south. Carrefour Nunavut is recognized as a key player and was invited to a roundtable for the Government of Nunavut's new *Tourism Strategy*, which will be revealed in March 2012.

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

As supporting entrepreneurs with a social mandate is our number one priority, we offer consultation services and technical assistance to support the development and growth of new entrepreneurial initiatives, nurturing empowerment while taking into account the abilities, the essence and the reality of the people involved. Through an alternative perception of the economy, Carrefour Nunavut gives rise to socio-economic innovation and to social transformations, in a context of mutual community assistance.

EMPLOYABILITY

Carrefour Nunavut connects workers and employers. To achieve this goal, we participate in career fairs and trade shows. We also organize recruitment days and also ensure French jobs are posted online. Finally, Carrefour Nunavut coordinates training sessions from and/or for local entrepreneurs to further Franco-Nunavummiut skill development. Over the last two years, we have targeted communications and computer skills. A Simply Accounting workshop and a Web design workshop were provided by local trainers. Follow Carrefour Nunavut news through social media and other Internet sources!

Websites, Facebook page and the Five Spirit blog.

- www.carrefournunavut.ca
- www.voirnunavut.ca
- www.fivespirit.eu/carrefournunavu/

TOURISM

Carrefour Nunavut is working on setting up cultural tourism, educational and outdoor initiatives through ecotourism. Carrefour Nunavut offers an integrated and innovative approach inspired by exploratory missions from elsewhere in Canada that are conducive to bolstering local capacity and peer learning. We are also developing tools to assess experiences. In terms of tourism development initiatives, Carrefour



COMMISSION SCOLAIRE FRANCOPHONE DU NUNAVUT

You betcha! A French-language education program has been available in Iqaluit, Nunavut, for 10 years now. The Francophone program, which started out as a few hours of French instruction within an Inuit and Anglophone school, now has its own school (Trois-Soleils), which overlooks beautiful Frobisher Bay. The school and its daycare are managed by the Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut, which was officially established in 2004.

The Commission scolaire is responsible for French-language education in all of Nunavut. Maintaining and reinforcing the Francophone identity of Francophone members of the community is a major concern, so the school board offers francization services to children as young as four years old. Afterwards, children enter the regular kindergarten to Grade 8 track at the Trois-Soleils school. As for continuing on in the Francophone program, the CSFN will offer Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 in collaboration with Inuksuk High School until students can be accommodated in a more suitable facility. There are currently nearly 100 students at the Trois-Soleils school, and the CSFN plans to expand in the next few years.

Since its inception, the school has focused on art and outdoor recreation. These two elements are an integral part of Inuit culture and allow young Francophones to create ties to their local surroundings. Students experience many cultural projects to acquire Francophone as well as Inuit bearings.

Developing oral communication, reading and writing skills are at the heart of our teachers' priorities. A full-time remedial teacher supports staff efforts to ensure all students master these language skills, which are crucial to school achievement. A great library stimulates students' work and gives parents access to shared reading.

Northern development is not restricted to Iqaluit. Francophones are now present in many communities across Nunavut. They are too few to allow new Francophone classes to be opened, but the Commission scolaire hopes to promote French-language education in those remote communities, by developing a means of supporting home-schooling and distance education using increasingly efficient technologies. The CSFN already provides home-schooling support in two communities: Coral Harbour and Pangnirtung. By visiting the Commission scolaire's and the school's websites, you can witness the vitality of Francophone institutions in Iqaluit: www.csfn.ca and www.trois-soleils.ca



A DYNAMIC COMMUNITY!



SYLVIA CLOUTIER THE PLEASURE OF CREATION AND DRAWING INSPIRATION FROM YOUR ROOTS

Sylvia Cloutier has lived in Nunavut for just over 15 years and chose to devote her life to art by honouring her Inuit culture. This is the portrait of an inspiring and passionate woman.

A PASSION FOR CREATION

Sylvia's interest in art began when she was just a little girl: "When I was young, I liked to sing and dance for fun. It came naturally to me." She spent the first few years of her life in Kuujuaq in Nunavik, then moved to Montréal with her family when she was 8 years old. She really missed her culture and language. At 18, she decided to move back up North and immerse herself in Inuit culture: "I realized that some young Nunavummiut did not know their traditions. I began to learn." Little by little, her art allowed her to travel around the world. What she likes most is working with and sharing her art with different artists. That's why she seizes the opportunities that come her way. Her collaborators include Cirqiniq, a circus camp in Nunavik; BluePRINT For Life, which relates social life to hip hop; Tafelmusik, a baroque orchestra; Think of One, a Belgian band; and DJ Madeskimo of Inuit descent.

Sylvia is constantly on the move, and no two months in her life are alike. It isn't always easy to be an artist up North with the high cost of living and travelling. She has adapted, however, and lives in a changing environment where she is always learning new things: "With every project I work on, I grow a little more. Every time I partner with someone, it takes me in a new direction, down another path in my life." She is involved with Qaggiavut as a board member: "We want to create a cultural centre that promotes Nunavut culture."

TULUGAK

Her latest creation is *Tulugak* (or raven), which she worked on with artists from Nunavik, Nunavut and Greenland. The show was presented at the Alianait Arts Festival in 2011. *Tulugak* depicts ravens in a traditional and artistic way: "The show includes tales, drum dancing, Greenlandic mask dancing, circus acts, compositions and humour. For example, there is an expression in Kalaallisut (Greenland's Inuit language) that resembles 'when pigs begin to fly,' but there it's 'when ravens turn white.' We played around with this concept. We also wanted the show to make you think, which is why we represented the raven as a reflection of mankind, which is affected by pollution, and humans are also responsible for pollution. We will present another version of the show in Nuuk, Greenland, in May, and I hope we get the chance to present it in other parts of Nunavut and Nunavik."

WHERE LANGUAGES FIT IN

Sylvia's grandfather would tell her, "Speaking several languages can do nothing but open doors for you." Sylvia believes the same thing: "A French song was presented during the *Tulugak* show. Speaking French also helped a lot at Cirqiniq. I don't often get to practice it here in Iqaluit, but speaking several languages certainly has a positive impact."

For more information about Sylvia Cloutier and her activities, visit her website: <http://www.aqsarniit.ca/>

LUCIE MOISAN

WORKING AS A TRANSLATOR IN KUGLUKTUK

Lucie Moisan lives in Kugluktuk (or *Qurluktuk*, which means: “where water falls down”), Nunavut’s westernmost community. She translates into French for the Government of Nunavut at the Translation Bureau and works alongside a team of Inuinnaqtun translators.



SERENDIPITY

Lucie’s arrival in Nunavut was serendipitous. She had just returned from a trip to Latin America and was looking for a job. The day after she arrived in Quebec, a friend sent her a job posting from the Government of Nunavut. Lucie seized the opportunity: “I was already interested in the North and Inuit culture. To me, leaving for Nunavut was a great opportunity to learn more,” she said.

She arrived in Kugluktuk in February 2010 after being hired along with another French translator. They were the first Francophones to join the Translation Bureau. Their biggest challenge was getting to know Inuit culture and basic government documents (including principles of Inuit *Qaujimajatuqangit*). They also had to learn a lot about Nunavut’s different organizations and specific vocabulary.

Lucie Moisan explains that, to be a good translator for the Government of Nunavut, you must absolutely be a generalist and keep on learning: “The topics are quite varied, like harvesting polar bears, the status of women, uranium, and poverty.”

LIFE IN KUGLUKTUK

Life in the hamlet with a population of about 1,500 is pretty quiet. Lucie tells us that creativity and imagination are definitely pluses. You can play sports like badminton and volleyball at the sports and recreation complex. Lucie has also taken sewing lessons. The *Nattiq Frolics*, celebrating the arrival of spring, take place in April and allow the community to get together for a festive event.

The absence of public meeting places, such as coffee shops and restaurants, in addition to being far away from friends and family can sometimes be difficult. Especially since it is a lot more expensive and takes much longer to get to Quebec from Kugluktuk than say Iqaluit.

As for living as a Francophone in Kugluktuk, Lucie says there are a few people who speak French there. She often meets them by chance and always seizes opportunities to speak French with Francophones and francophiles. Her co-workers that translate into Inuinnaqtun are very happy for her when she tells them about meeting Francophones. Her Inuit co-workers really understand the significance of being able to speak in “your” language. As Inuinnaqtun is in danger, revival measures are encouraged and have been set up in communities where the Inuit dialect is spoken.

When Lucie’s co-workers want to tease her, they say: “Oui, oui!” Suffice to say that this is something Francophones from all over Nunavut are known for!





SARAH CARRIÈRE ENRICHED BY LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Sarah was born in Cape Dorset (*Kinngait* or mountains in Inuktitut). Her life has taken her all over Canada and taught her how important languages and adaptation are in daily life.

A FRENCH-LANGUAGE EDUCATION

Sarah's family moved to Saint-Eustache when she was a child, so that she could have a French education. She was taken aback when she attended her first class: "At home, we mostly spoke in Inuktitut. I had only a rudimentary knowledge of French, so entering a French environment was a challenge." In 1994, she returned to Iqaluit and was enrolled in the French-language program at Nakasuk School. What was in store? A class of Grade 4 to 7 students of only 8 students, where everything was taught in French. After Grade 7, as she wanted to continue her French-language education, she moved to Yellowknife, returned for a year and attended Inukshuk High School in Iqaluit, then moved to Saskatchewan.

She later chose to study sociology and the environment. After completing her post-secondary studies, she worked for Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, a national Inuit organization in Canada, then for the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services: "These experiences let me put the theory I learned about Inuit political and cultural history into practice, and allowed me to better understand different land claim systems."

SPEAKING SEVERAL LANGUAGES: AN ADDED VALUE

Where does French fit into all this? Sarah believes speaking French is an advantage. "At pan-Canadian meetings, I could express myself in three languages: French, English and Inuktitut. I was able to make people more comfortable by talking to them in their language." In addition, when she was in Iqaluit, she was involved with the Association des

francophones: "This kept me connected to my Francophone culture, which I missed a lot. I also did some improvisation, worked in radio, and participated in Francophone Games and the Parlement franco-canadien du Nord et de l'Ouest."

Sarah stresses how important it is to know your language and culture: "Knowing your own culture is important. Being Francophone isn't easy no matter where you are in Canada, and I often tell people who don't speak French: 'If you want to learn, do it!' It is rarely a requirement, but it is so enriching. My parents always say that languages are important and, when I was younger, I wasn't so sure about that, but now I see the impact languages have on my life."

NOW WHAT?

After spending some time in Ottawa, where she worked for Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, Sarah decided to return to Iqaluit. She finally moved back in October 2011: "I am now in an adaptation phase. I am getting to know my friends all over again. I experienced life in Nunavut as a child and teenager, but I must now learn to live as an adult in Iqaluit." Here, she gets to do fieldwork, which she missed when she was in Ottawa. Sarah does not plan on leaving it at that: "I want to make a difference in my community!"





CHRISTINE LAMOTHE

A LIFE ON THE MOVE

Christine “Lil’ Bear” Lamothe is active every day, whether she’s encouraging others to be active, teaching yoga, hip hop or zumba, designing choreographies, or being active herself. Even when she’s busy working as a physical activity specialist at CLEY, she uses her visits to the printer as an opportunity to sprint. This is the profile of a woman who is crazy about dancing and likes to share her love of being active.

ACTIVELY INVOLVED

Christine arrived in Nunavut five years ago. She had initially come to give dance classes to teenagers for one week. Her one-week visit turned into a one-month visit, so she could decide if she would like living up North. In the end, she decided to stay in Iqaluit for good and has laid down roots in her adopted land. She had earned the nickname “Little Bear” before even arriving in Nunavut, so she was probably fated to integrate so well into her host community!

She is involved in many activities and provides others with many opportunities to be active. She hosts Hip Hop Spot, a class where kids aged 11 and over can learn breakdance. The group meets three times a week, on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays. She also teaches yoga and zumba. Christine is also a part of Kaiva (“to spin” in Inuktitut), a cultural performance group that combines hip hop and traditional Inuit dance elements. She got the idea for Kaiva during the 2008 Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse. Kaiva brings together young artists from different communities around Nunavut and strives to share culture, knowledge and talent through performances, workshops and collaboration.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ACTIVE

The kids in *Hip Hop Spot* are all there for different reasons: “Some of them really want to improve their technique, agility and body strength, so they can be good dancers.” Others simply participate because they have fun and feel good doing it. Plus, being a part of *Hip Hop Spot* presents them with great opportunities, like shows outside Iqaluit. Christine says she had a difficult childhood, and when the goings got tough, she really immersed herself in dance. She is happy to still be dancing and passing on her passion: “It is pure positivity in my life: I am passing on my passion, which keeps me in shape and forces me to be creative.”

Being a Francophone has helped her better understand languages and how important they are. She talks to the young Francophones from *Hip Hop Spot* in French. It isn’t unusual for her to speak English, French and a few words in Inuktitut to adapt to all her students!

For more information about Christine Lamothe and Kaiva, visit the following websites:
<http://www.lilbear.ca> et <http://www.kaiva.ca>



FRANCOPHONE PERSPECTIVES IN NUNAVUT

Nunavut's Francophones are here for several reasons and get involved in their community in different ways. We asked people from various backgrounds (a volunteer from the Association des francophones, a taxi driver, a Katimavik volunteer, a mother, a priest, a teacher, a francophile and a couple that moved away) to share their experiences in Nunavut.



GENEVIÈVE SAVARIA-DURAND

Before setting foot in Nunavut, I had no idea what this far-removed territory had in store for me! Just hours after my arrival, I was already really impressed by the great beauty of the small capital of Iqaluit. I thought it would be easy to meet new people here. Not! Much to my dismay, I realized how hard it is to integrate into "Iqaluit society," especially as a Francophone who doesn't speak English all that well! I was told about the Association des francophones several times and decided to sign up to be a volunteer. I don't regret it! Volunteering at the association allowed me to meet other Quebeckers, Inuit and people from other provinces. Volunteering at the association opens many doors and definitely helps you better integrate into the community!

MATHIEU RENÉ

I came here five years ago wanting to do things differently, go off on an adventure, sail into the unknown. After all these years, that is what is still keeping me here. I like the "camping" style of life here. I like when there's no water because the truck hasn't come by and when blizzards last three days. When I arrived, I was surprised to see the influence of francophonie outside Quebec. I think the association is the best meeting place, and parties are always fun there. Working as a taxi driver, the two biggest challenges upon my arrival were being self-employed and not getting lost! For example, when I would take a customer to Road to Nowhere instead of the address they gave me in Happy Valley because I wasn't used to those places yet! Besides my work, I am involved with children from social services. It is something I care about and allows me to have a positive impact here.



ÉTIENNE LAFRANCE

I was part of the Katimavik program in Iqaluit in the fall of 2011. When I first learned I was going to Iqaluit, I had no idea what or where it was! I figured it would be cold there, but I didn't know much else. We started the program in Calgary, Alberta, and some Inuit in the group prepared me for the reality of Nunavut. To try to make me feel better about the cold, they told me Iqaluit wasn't at all humid! I was still in for a shock when I arrived. There was no snow on the ground and no trees: only tundra as far as the eye can see! And I quickly realized how different Iqaluit is from my native Montréal. People smile at each other as they pass on the street, even if they don't know each other! I was also surprised to discover there is a Francophone community here. I hope to have had an impact on the community. I tried to be a role model for the kids I dealt with.



JENNIFER COLEPAUGH

I came to Iqaluit in 2005. Since then, my family has grown to include a son and daughter. I am bilingual since my dad is Anglophone and my mom is Acadian, which means French is a part of my identity. I think it's important that my children also speak French. Plus, speaking French is an advantage in Canada. My children's father, who is Anglophone, is trying really hard to learn French too. I intend to be involved in my children's lives, which is why I am the president of the Petits Nanooks Early Childhood Centre board of directors. My eldest goes there, and I see the hard work the daycare teachers put in to create a French environment at the ECC. It is heart-warming to see my son talk to his friends in French and be interested in the Francophone culture. The ECC and Trois-Soleils school really allow children to be immersed in francophonie.

DANIEL PERREAU

It is the start of my fourth year as a priest at the Iqaluit and Pond Inlet parishes. After being a high school teacher for 18 years in my religious community, I wanted a change of scenery and was offered a position in Africa. Shortly after, I was told I would be heading to the Great North. I spent several days thinking about it and finally agreed with the choice my community made. It had been a long time since anyone had worked full time here. Bringing people together is a challenge, but the number of churchgoers has doubled since I arrived. One of my biggest challenges here is Inuktitut. I practice one hour a day. I don't just want to pronounce prayers in Inuktitut properly—I want to understand them too! Everyone being able to understand in their language is a priority at our Catholic church. I still share close ties with Francophones: it's nice to get to speak French!



MATHIEU BÉLAND

I came to Iqaluit for a one-year contract as a high school teacher at the Trois-Soleils school, but decided to keep the adventure going. By living here, I get to meet a variety of people, both personality- and culture-wise. In addition, living in a new environment helps me better understand different cultures and ways of thinking. I now realize how important it is to be open to differences so that everyone can live in a world where you can reach your potential and be happy! Living in Nunavut has also changed my perception of francophonie. I come from the Mauricie area in Quebec and, for me, francophonie was the norm. Here, things are different. Being a minority helps make me more conscious of my roots and makes me proud of them. My biggest challenges in teaching are working in an environment that is very different from what I experienced in the past, letting students reach their full potential and, most of all, helping instill in them a sense of pride for the French language.



EMILY RIDLINGTON

I think being able to speak French in Iqaluit can really come in handy, whether socially or for work. Being able to express myself in two languages lets me learn more about the world and opens me up to new horizons. When I am not at work, I speak French when I play broomball or badminton. I am also very involved in my community. Speaking French has helped me co-ordinate volunteer activities for Iqaluit's two major annual festivals: the Toonik Tyme Festival in the spring and the Alianait Arts Festival in the summer. As I am originally from New Brunswick and a native English speaker, I started learning French in kindergarten. I have kept it up. At the University of Ottawa, I took translation courses. As I speak it on a daily basis, my French continues to improve. I can't imagine a better place for that than the Arctic.

YOAN BARRIAULT AND MÉLINA AUCLAIR

We met in Iqaluit and our two children were born there. We came back south for two years because I am currently pursuing a master's degree in theatre at the University of Ottawa. Theatre is vital in a place like Iqaluit. It brings people from different backgrounds together and brings cultures closer together. In a minority setting, it lets you experience your culture. Despite the distance, we are still connected to Nunavut. We have met several people from Iqaluit here, which has made our transition a lot more pleasant. We especially miss Iqaluit's laid-back atmosphere, the Francophone school and access to services. However, we don't miss the very cold weather too much! We believe living in Nunavut opened us up to many things. We know a lot of things that other people don't. On the other hand, it is nice to leave Iqaluit and visit someplace new. We will be revitalized upon our return!



YOUR LANGUAGE RIGHTS

ROSE'S STORY

The Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut is responsible for promoting and defending language rights. Acting as an ombudsman and defender of language rights, the Commissioner can pursue different corrective actions when language rights are violated. The following is a fictional case to show you how to uphold your rights!

This is the story of Rose, a 19-year-old Francophone woman from Nunavut. With the territorial elections fast approaching, she would finally get to cast her first ever ballot. Rose received a leaflet from the elections office that had information written only in English and Inuktitut. Rose can normally read and understand some Inuktitut and English words; however, she wasn't very familiar with the terminology used in the leaflet. She decided to focus on the gist of it: she memorized only the time and place of the polling station.

When the big day finally arrived, Rose went to the polling station with her friend Thomas. When it was her turn to register at the polling station, Rose discovered her name wasn't on the voters list. The clerk reminded Rose that the elections office sent a leaflet to all Nunavummiut last month, inviting them to vote and to ensure their name was on the voters list. Rose, who was a little nervous, didn't understand everything the clerk told her in English. Fortunately, Thomas, who understands English, Inuktitut and French very well, served as a Francophone interpret for his friend. Rose could still register on the spot, but the registration form wasn't available in French. Once again, Rose needed Thomas's help. In the end, Rose managed to register and vote. Rose would not forget this humiliating and disappointing experience any time soon.

After going home, Rose remembered having read a leaflet on language rights from the Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut. She sat down in front of her computer and checked the Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut's website. Through her research, she realized that the elections office really did violate her language rights. According to Section 3, Paragraphs 1 and 2, of Nunavut's new *Official Languages Act*, the Inuit language, French and English are Nunavut's official languages. Nunavut's official languages have equality of status and equal rights and privileges as to their use in all institutions. In addition, according to Section 12, Paragraph 1, of the law, any member of the public in Nunavut has the right to communicate with, and to receive available services from, an institution in an Official Language.

Rose rushed to inform the Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut of her concern by phone. As soon as the Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut learned of her concern, it considered the possibility of handling the matter informally since time was of the essence. The Commissioner immediately contacted the elections office, which graciously accepted to apply the Commissioner's recommendations. It was agreed that, from now on, the elections office's leaflet would be available and distributed in French, the voters



list registration form would be available in French, and the elections office would ensure a Francophone clerk was available at the polling station during the election period. Rose did something important that will ensure a similar situation does not repeat itself. Language rights are important privileges that we must exercise if we want to protect them.

As a member of the public, just like Rose, you can tell us your concerns, or the concerns of a third party, group or community. The Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut can protect your language rights only if you share your concerns with us.

For questions or concerns about your language rights, please visit our website or contact us by phone, mail, email or in person. The Office of the Languages Commissioner in Iqaluit is open to the public. It is located on the third floor of the Qamutiik building.



(867) 979-7960
Toll-free : 1 877 836-2280



(867) 979-7969



info@langcom.nu.ca



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Uqauhinut Kamisinaup Havakvia Nunavunmi
Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut
Bureau du Commissaire aux langues du Nunavut





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Pitquhiliqiyikkut
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Ministère de la Culture, de la Langue, des Aînés et de la Jeunesse