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Standing Committee tables review of Languages Commissioner's Annual Report

IQALUIT, Nunavut (February 26, 2001) - The Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health today tabled its Review of the 1999-2000 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut.

Eva Qamaniq Aariak, the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut, is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly. Her first annual report was presented to the Legislative Assembly at its last Session. The Languages Commissioner appeared before the Standing Committee at a public meeting to discuss her report and recommendations in November of 2000.

"Members of the Standing Committee were pleased to have the opportunity to discuss with the Languages Commissioner many issues concerning language use and rights," said Jobie Nutarak, MLA for Tunnuniq and Chair of the Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health. "The Committee believes that English, French, Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut are four languages which deserve full recognition of their status and use in Nunavut."

In addition to addressing the recommendations contained in the Languages Commissioner's annual report, the Standing Committee made a number of its own recommendations.

A central recommendation focused on the establishment of a Special Committee of the Legislative Assembly to conduct a review of the Official Languages Act. Given the important role that language has to play in achieving the goals and aspirations of Nunavummiut, the Standing Committee anticipates that the scope of the review will be broad, consultative and far-reaching.

"We look forward to continuing our work with the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut as we move ahead in addressing language issues in Nunavut," Mr. Nutarak said.

Click here to read the review (requires Adobe Acrobat)

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