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Nunavut Maligaliurvia
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

RELEASE

Legislative Assembly appoints Special Committee to review the *Official Languages Act*

IQALUIT, Nunavut (February 26, 2001) - Members of the Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a motion today to appoint a Special Committee to review the Official Languages Act.

As required by section 29 of the Official Languages Act, the review will include an examination of the administration and implementation of the Act; the effectiveness of its provisions; the achievement of its objectives; and will likely result in a number of recommendations relating to language legislation and policy.

Earlier in the day, the Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health tabled its Review of the 1999-2000 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut. The Standing Committee recommended that the Legislative Assembly establish a Special Committee to undertake a broad review the Official Languages Act.

"I am encouraged by the willingness of all Members of the Legislative Assembly to work together with stakeholders outside of government to achieve language policy that is reflective of the entire territory," said the Hon. Peter Kattuk, Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

"The appointment of a Special Committee to undertake this important work highlights the commitment that all Members have to the protection and promotion of Nunavut's languages," added Rebekah Williams, MLA for Quttiktuq.

English, French, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun copies of the Special Committee's Terms of Reference were also tabled in the House today.

"Bringing forward a made-in-Nunavut statute to address language issues will require that we work closely with our partner organizations, our Elders and our communities," said Donald Havioyak, MLA for Kugluktuk.

The Members of the Special Committee are:

- Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, MLA for Akulliq
- Mr. Donald Havioyak, MLA for Kugluktuk
- Mr. David Iqaqrialu, MLA for Uqqummiut
- Hon. Peter Kattuk, MLA for Hudson Bay
- Ms. Rebekah Williams, MLA for Quttiktuq

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