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Nunavut Maligaliurvia
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

R E L E A S E

Special Committee to Review the *Official Languages Act* tables Interim Report

IQALUIT, Nunavut (March 7, 2002) - The Special Committee to Review the *Official Languages Act* has tabled its Interim Report.

The Special Committee was established by the Legislative Assembly in February 2001 to undertake a comprehensive review of the Act. The members of the Special Committee are Rebekah Uqi Williams, Donald Havioyak, Ovide Alakannuark, David Iqaqrialu and the Honourable Jack Anawak. The Honourable Peter Kattuk served on the Special Committee during its first year and Members would like to express their appreciation for the insights that he brought to the Committee's deliberations.

"We have reached an important milestone in our work," said Rebekah Uqi Williams, Chair of the Special Committee. "Our report presents a summary of our activities to date and highlights a number of the issues and concerns that we have heard from stakeholders across Nunavut. We will continue to accept written submissions until our public consultations are complete, at which time we will review all submissions together."

The Special Committee presented four recommendations in its report. Under the Rules of the Legislative Assembly, the Government of Nunavut is required to provide a comprehensive response within 120 days.

"Our next step is to hear directly from the public on what they want to see in a new Act," said Ovide Alakannuark. "This report clearly identifies a number of challenges that lie ahead."

The Special Committee will be conducting community consultations later in 2002. Detailed schedules of public hearings will be made available from the Legislative Assembly.

Copies of the Special Committee's report are available from the Legislative Assembly and are on-line at: www.assembly.nu.ca

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