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Nunavut Maligaliurvia
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

RELEASE

Special Committee wraps up series of public meetings

IQALUIT, Nunavut (October 1, 2002) Over 145 Nunavummiut took the time to attend recent public meetings in Arctic Bay, Taloyoak, Chesterfield Inlet, Baker Lake and Kugluktuk by the Legislative Assembly's Special Committee to Review the Official Languages Act.

The Special Committee was established by the Legislative Assembly to undertake a review of the Official Languages Act, which was inherited from the Northwest Territories on April 1, 1999.

"The feeling and thought that people put into their contributions was impressive," said MLA Rebekah Williams, Chair of the Special Committee. "I was particularly struck by the comments of one youth, who talked to us about the need to ensure that Inuit of his generation and the next grow up in an environment where Inuktitut is recognized, respected and supported."

Because of inclement weather, the Special Committee was unable to travel to Sanikiluaq and Qikiqtarjuaq. The Special Committee will endeavour to re-schedule these meetings to a later date.

"Strengthening our language also begins at home," said MLA Donald Havioyak, Co-Chair of the Special Committee. "In my community of Kugluktuk, our youth are at risk of losing Innuinaqtun. We all have a part to play in ensuring that the languages of Nunavut survive and thrive."

Its Terms of Reference mandate the Special Committee to present its final report to the Legislative Assembly in 2003. Copies of the Special Committee's first Interim Report are available from the Legislative Assembly and are available on-line at <http://www.assembly.nu.ca>.

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For more information:

Rebekah Uqi Williams, MLA
Chair, Special Committee to Review the Official Languages Act
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Tel: (867) 975-5000
Fax: (867) 975-5190