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Nunavut Maligaliurvia
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

R E L E A S E

MLAs Express Appreciation to Departing Languages Commissioner

IQALUIT, Nunavut (November 22, 2004) - The position of Languages Commissioner of Nunavut will be re-opened for applications following the decision by incumbent Languages Commissioner Eva Aariak to pursue new opportunities in the private sector.

Ms. Aariak was present in the Visitors' Gallery of the Legislative Assembly today to receive expressions of appreciation from MLAs for her years of hard work as Nunavut's first Languages Commissioner.

Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* Chair Steve Mapsalak delivered the Report of the Standing Committee on its recent selection process for the position. Mr. Mapsalak said, "We would like to warmly thank Ms. Aariak for serving as Nunavut's first Languages Commissioner and wish her the very best in her new challenges. She has left the office in a strong position to carry on its important work."

The position of Languages Commissioner is established pursuant to Nunavut's *Official Languages Act*. The Languages Commissioner is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly, and fulfills a wide range of duties under the legislation.

Ms. Aariak was appointed Nunavut's first Languages Commissioner in 1999. Over the past five years, her office has produced a number of annual reports and special studies outlining the current state of language in Nunavut, and making recommendations on the protection, preservation and promotion of Nunavut's official languages.

Public advertisements for the position will be issued shortly. The Standing Committee encourages all interested Nunavummiut to contact the Office of the Legislative Assembly for more information on the application process.

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For more information:
Tony Rose
Public Affairs Officer
Tel: (867) 975-5106
Fax: (867) 975-5190
Email: trose@assembly.nu.ca