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Nunavut Maligaliurvia
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

R E L E A S E

**Speaker of the Legislative Assembly announces designation of new
Languages Commissioner of Nunavut**

IQALUIT, Nunavut (January 7, 2009) - The Honourable James Arreak, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and Chair of the Management and Services Board, today announced that the Board will be recommending to all Members of the Legislative Assembly that a formal motion be moved at the next sitting of the House to appoint Ms. Alexina Kublu of Iqaluit as Languages Commissioner of Nunavut. The 1st Session of the 3rd Legislative Assembly reconvenes on January 26, 2009.

Under the *Official Languages Act*, the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut is appointed by the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly. The Languages Commissioner is one of a number of independent officers of the Legislative Assembly who report directly to the House as a whole.

“Alexina Kublu is a proven advocate for the preservation and promotion of the Inuit Language. Her experience as a language teacher, author, public servant and Senior Justice of the Peace will be a strong asset to the Office of the Languages Commissioner,” said Speaker Arreak.

A public call for applications for the position of Languages Commissioner was issued in the fall of 2008. The Legislative Assembly’s Management and Services Board conducted a competitive selection process for the position. Under the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*, the Board has authority for matters that fall under the jurisdiction of the Legislative Assembly.

“The recent passage of Nunavut’s new *Official Languages Act* and *Inuit Language Protection Act* are important milestones in Nunavut’s development. I look forward to working with all stakeholders in fulfilling the office’s important mandate,” said Ms. Kublu.

A biographical note is attached.

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For more information:
John Quirke, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
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Alexina Kublu

Alexina Kublu was born in Igloolik and has lived in a number of communities throughout Canada, including Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, Ottawa and Iqaluit.

A certified teacher, Ms. Kublu holds a Bachelor of Education degree and a certificate in municipal administration.

Ms. Kublu has held a number of positions in the public and private sectors, including Senior Justice of the Peace, Nunavut Arctic College instructor, Executive Director of the Kitikmeot Regional Council, Training Officer with the Government of the Northwest Territories, Executive Director of Atii Training and a consultant with Ittukuluuk Language Programs.

In addition to making numerous presentations on Inuit language and culture at national and international conferences and events, she has authored or co-authored a number of publications in these areas. She has served as a member of the national Ministerial Task Force on Aboriginal Languages and Cultures.

Ms. Kublu lives in Iqaluit with her husband and partner, Mick Mallon, a Member of the Order of Canada. She is a member of the national Board of Directors of the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention and a volunteer with Iqaluit's Kamatsiaqtut Help Line.