



News Release

For immediate release

New Website for Languages Commissioner

Iqaluit, June 1, 2010 - The Office of the Languages Commissioner is pleased to announce the release of its new website. The new website aims to extend the reach of information about language rights to Nunavummiut. It has increased content and many new features.

Visitors to www.langcom.nu.ca are given a visual treat: a moving photo gallery of Nunavut photos centre stage; a smaller gallery *Stories-Through-Pictures* off in the wings and, beneath the main gallery, the *Youth Portal* image. "Behind the attractive appearance," says Alexina Kublu, "our site is extremely informative on Nunavut's language legislation, on the language rights in-bedded within that legislation, and on the actions which will be taken by our office when a contravention of these rights occurs."

The Investigative Process and the *Resource* section provide more detailed information about what happens once this office is informed of language rights violations.

The Languages Commissioner takes special pride in the *Youth Portal*. "In the young lies the future of the Inuit language. We must get them involved by providing tools for them to participate in discussions of language rights. Behind the portal we have provided a blog on which I am hoping they will share their thoughts and experiences on language; for example, in music, video and stories. These are important tools for them to practice the right to use their language. So they may voice their opinions about the availability of their language in the media and ask other bloggers questions such as: 'Are we happy with what there is?' 'Would we like to more?' 'If yes, how can this be done?' 'Who will do it?'"

The first blog has been written by Malaiya Netser from Coral Harbour who now works at the Office of the Language Commissioner in Iqaluit. Malaiya believes knowing her language is important for communicating with her grandparents and in understanding her culture. She concludes with: "Our language is unique and is a gift."

The Commissioner has her own blog to report on the progress of language implementation and on the activities of her office. It may also include her observations on the comments she has received from Nunavummiut on the subjects of language rights. This will be a key element—along with the *What's Happening* section—as the office starts to actively seek out systemic issues of language rights.

We welcome the publics' comments (particularly if they experience any difficulties) on the new website or suggestions on the content they would like to see.

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