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Uqauhinut Kamisinaup Havakvia Nunavunmi  
Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut  
Bureau du Commissaire aux langues du Nunavut

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

## The Languages Commissioner of Nunavut concurs with the Truth and Reconciliation report

**Iqaluit, Nunavut (June 3rd, 2015)** - The Languages Commissioner of Nunavut, Sandra Inutiq strongly commends and supports the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action report issued by Justice Murray Sinclair, in particular those pertaining to language and education.

As part of the Calls to Action report:

Recommendation 13 **“We call upon the federal government to acknowledge that Aboriginal rights include Aboriginal language rights”**

Recommendation 14 i. **“Aboriginal languages are fundamental and valued element of Canadian culture and society, and there is an urgency to preserve them.”**

Recommendation 14 iii. **“The federal government has a responsibility to provide sufficient fund for Aboriginal language revitalization and preservation”**

Recommendation 14 v. **“Funding for Aboriginal language initiatives must reflect the diversity of Aboriginal languages”**

Recommendation 15 **“We call upon the federal government to appoint, in consultation with Aboriginal groups, an Aboriginal Languages Commissioner. The Commissioner should help promote Aboriginal languages and report on the adequacy of federal funding of Aboriginal languages initiatives.”**

The Languages Commissioner of Nunavut concurs with these recommendations and says it affirms most of what she has previously stated.

“We need a clear statement from the federal government that recognizes Aboriginal rights as including Aboriginal language rights as a positive obligation” Languages Commissioner Inutiq states.

Ratifying these recommendations would put Aboriginal Languages in the Canadian landscape where it has been largely absent, if not sporadic. “The time is now to start reversing continual erosion of our Inuit language; it would be a symbolic gesture of reconciliation as language played an integral role as part of the assimilation policy”.

In closing “It will take all of us to work together to protect our language” said the Languages Commissioner “including the recognition and action by the federal government.”

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