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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

2014-2015 LANGUAGE AGREEMENT

Iqaluit, Nunavut (May 8th, 2015) - Minister Leona Aglukkaq announced on Wednesday that the federal government is ratifying the 2014-2015 agreement with the Government of Nunavut for the \$2.7 million language promotion fund. Of that amount, Aglukkaq states \$1.625 million is for the French language and \$1.1 million for the Inuit Language.

“These amounts have not substantially changed in over ten years, funds for Inuit language have stayed the same” says Languages Commissioner Sandra Inutiq. “We need more equitable funding for the Inuit language, and funding for the French language that reflects the needs of that community”, she continues.

“With a young population, we are seeing an acceleration of language loss. Protection of our language is now urgent and is a shared responsibility. The federal government has a direct responsibility to redress the Inuit language situation in Nunavut because of their role in assimilation policies of the past”, says Sandra Inutiq.

Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. Vice-President James Eetoolook stated, “Inuktut promotion is a cornerstone in keeping our language strong. It is unacceptable that such inadequate and inequitable resources continue to be allocated to Nunavut. Although our language use is still strong, we are experiencing language erosion, a rapidly growing population, and increasing pressures from dominant languages. We need equitable funding to ensure our language thrives.”

“So much needs to be done to start reversing language loss including funding education curriculum development and creation of material, early childhood programs, adult immersion programs as well as media outlets in Nunavut” Inutiq states. Through the enactment of the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, Nunavut has stated how they want their official languages protected, revitalized and promoted.

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