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Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth

Minista Pitquhiliqiyit

Ministre de la Culture, des langues, des aînés et de la Jeunesse

31, August 2008

Zacharias Kunuk, President
Igloodik Isuma Productions, Inc.
Igloodik, Nunavut
X0A 0L0

Dear Mr. Kunuk,

In Pinasuaqtavut 2004-2009, opening comments by Premier Okalik; *"Our government is in its second mandate. It is a time that will be used to build a stronger cultural foundation based on Inuit societal values (ISV) and develop and expand our economy..."* validated for Inuit their vision and expectations for our future based on Inuit's desires and aspirations: in which Inuktitut language is the pivotal part of this foundation.

The Inuit Language is among the only three Aboriginal languages in Canada that has a chance of long term survival. But it is also at risk. According to 2006 federal census data and other research reports, its use is in decline in the home, the workplace and the classroom.

I am delighted to see that Inuit are pioneers once again in using new technology to promote our unique culture and language. [isuma.tv] brings more Inuit Language content on demand than any other conventional aboriginal broadcaster in Canada. It also closes the gap between Inuit in Nunavut and from other Inuit circumpolar regions, as well as indigenous peoples from around the globe.

As Member of the Legislative Assembly for Nunavut, representing Amittuq Riding (Igloodik-Hall Beach), and Minister in the Nunavut Government, for Department of Cultural, Languages, Elders, and Youth, (CLEY), I feel that the protection and enhancement of Inuktitut is a responsibility to be shared by all. Be it in the private or the public sector in all level of our daily life. With this, it is my pleasure to provide you a letter of support regarding the innovative and unique initiative [isuma.tv], an Internet television community network to strengthen the use of the Inuit Language online.

In this era of global communications, all level of governments and their agencies must take concrete actions to reverse the erosion of our Inuit Language, and ensure it will thrive beyond the next century.

Regards,

Louis Tapardjuk
Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth

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