



News Release

Documentary Video Celebrates Efforts to Maintain Inuinnaqtun

IQALUIT, Nunavut (February 17, 2014) – Representatives from the Coalition of Nunavut District Education Authorities (CNDEA), the Government of Nunavut and the Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut today launched the documentary *Millie's Dream* in Iqaluit. The video shares the vision and passion of Millie Kuliktana, an educator and language advocate who has worked tirelessly for many years to maintain Inuinnaqtun.

“As families grew and English became the dominating first language it became a challenge to continue teaching in first language situations,” said Millie Kuliktana. “My dream is to see, hear and feel Inuinnaqtun used as a cultural identifier of Inuinnaqut in Nunavut.”

Millie's Dream is third in a series of documentary videos produced by the CNDEA in partnership with the University of Prince Edward Island and the Government of Nunavut.

“We have been developing this series of documentaries to highlight important issues in Nunavut education and to inspire Nunavummiut to tackle their own education projects in their communities like Millie did,” said CNDEA chairperson, Willie Nakoolak.

The two documentary videos previously released are: *Going Places: Preparing Inuit High School Students for a Changing Wider World* and *Alluriarniq: Stepping Forward*.

“Officially launching this video in Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay and Iqaluit during *Uqausirmut Quviasutiqarniq – Inuit Language Week* gives us the opportunity to recognize the importance and diversity of Inuit languages across Nunavut and celebrate this year's theme, *Our Language Keeps Our Culture Strong*,” said Minister of Education for the Government of Nunavut, Paul Quassa.

The CNDEA is sending copies of the documentary to all DEAs in Nunavut so it can be shown at DEA meetings or community meetings on education. Copies of the videos are available at the CNDEA office in Iqaluit.

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