

Do you have comments regarding the Government of Nunavut's proposals?

The Government of Nunavut invites businesses and other organizations to respond to the proposed provisions of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* before the legislation is drafted. Input should be sent before September 30, 2005 to:

Director of Official Languages
Department of Culture, Language,
Elders and Youth
Box 1000, Station 800
Iqaluit, Nunavut
X0A 1H0

or contact the department by email:
cley@gov.nu.ca
fax: (867) 975-5504

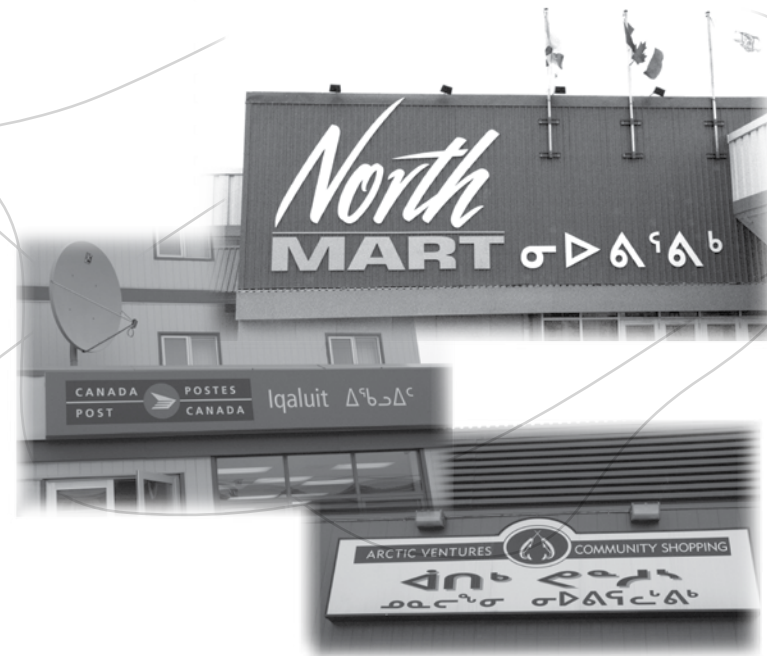
The Government of Nunavut will hold further consultations with the public and stakeholders in 2006, once the *Inuit Language Protection Act* has been drafted.

PROPOSED

NEW LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

FOR BUSINESSES, INUIT AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

I N U N A V U T



The Government of Nunavut (GN) is in the process of developing an *Inuit Language Protection Act* that will promote the use of Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun in Nunavut. The GN is proposing that this new legislation include provisions dealing with the language of instruction in Nunavut's schools, the language used in government workplaces, and essential services provided by businesses, Inuit and non-profit organizations. This document outlines the provisions the Government of Nunavut is considering that would impact businesses, Inuit and non-profit organizations.

What organizations would be covered by these provisions?

- All businesses operating in Nunavut
- Inuit organizations and institutions of public government
- Non-profit organizations
- Charities
- Co-ops

Would Inuinnaqtun services be required throughout Nunavut?

No. The proposed provisions would require Inuinnaqtun in the communities of Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Bathurst Inlet and Umingmaktok. Inuktitut would be required in all other communities in Nunavut. In written communications, Inuinnaqtun would have to be written in *qaliujaaqpait* (Roman orthography) with Inuktitut written in either *qaniujaaqpait* (syllabics) or *qaliujaaqpait*.

What provisions would be covered by the legislation?

The GN is proposing that businesses, Inuit organizations and non-profit organizations be required to deliver the following essential services in Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun:

Signs

- New signs put up by organizations inside and outside of their establishments would be required in Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun in addition to any other languages that are used.
- Any **existing** interior and exterior signs that do not include Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun would have to be altered or replaced to comply with the legislation. Organizations would be given a period of 2 to 7 years to make these changes.
- On all signs, Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun will be equally prominent as other languages.
- On signs that feature only the name or logo of the organization, one of the following would be required:
 - the name of the organization in Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun;
 - a description in Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun of the products or services of the organization; or
 - the purpose of the organization in Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun.



- It is proposed that signs could omit Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun as long as a sign of equal size containing the same information in Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun is posted immediately adjacent to it.

Health Care and Social Services

- Businesses or non profit organizations that deliver health care or social services would be required under the proposed provisions to deliver these services in Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun.
- The use of interpreters would be acceptable in situations where an organization is unable to hire qualified Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun speaking employees to deliver health care or social services.
- Pharmacies would be required to make information about prescriptions, including their correct use and dosage, available in Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun.

Essential Accommodation and Food Services

Licensed hotels in Nunavut would be required under the proposed provisions to have staff capable of serving customers in Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun, in person and on the telephone, during regular business hours. Restaurants would have to provide a list of the food available in Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun, in addition to any other languages.

Essential Household Services

Businesses that provide electricity, fuel or home telephone service to households in Nunavut would be required to be able to serve their customers in writing, on the telephone and in person in Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun.

Customer Services

The proposed provisions of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* would require organizations with more than 10 employees to have staff available to serve the public in Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun during regular business hours.

How will the Government of Nunavut support businesses and other organizations in complying with the legislation?

The GN is proposing to establish an **Inuit Language Authority** to do the following:

- Develop, standardize and promote new Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun terminology needed by government, businesses and other organizations
- Review and approve signs put up by businesses and other organizations to ensure the highest quality.

The GN will also ensure that contracts with businesses and other organizations to deliver health and social services on the government's behalf will include funding for the delivery of language services.