



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Tungasuvvingat Inuit and the Ontario Ministry of Education sign Historic Memorandum of Understanding**

The Inuit of Ontario, through Tungasuvvingat Inuit, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Education today. The President of the Board of Tungasuvvingat Inuit signed the MOU with the Minister of Education, the Honourable Mitzie Hunter. This MOU will formalize the working relationship that Tungasuvvingat Inuit and the Ministry of Education have been involved in together for many years.

“This signing solidifies the Ontario Government’s collaborative relationship with Tungasuvvingat Inuit and the Inuit of Ontario by acknowledging their distinct culture, identity and the Inuktitut language and our people as distinct under Section 35 of Canada’s Constitution,” said Tungasuvvingat Inuit President, Kathy Morgan.

The MOU sets out how the Ministry of Education and Tungasuvvingat Inuit will collaborate to achieve shared goals consistent with the *Ontario First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework* to ensure that Inuit students are supported and successful across the province in the K-12 system.

The Ministry of Education promotes a strong, vibrant, publicly funded education system by focusing on four key goals as part of its renewed vision for education: achieving excellence, ensuring equity, promoting well-being and enhancing public confidence in our publicly funded schools.

*“Today is a historic event – a new chapter for Tungasuvvingat Inuit and for the people of Ontario. This Memorandum of Understanding will support the learning and achievement of Inuit students, and will strengthen our relationship with the Inuit community.” Mitzie Hunter, Ontario Minister of Education*

*“This historic agreement on shared priorities will ensure that, moving forward, Inuit students will have the supports needed to help them succeed in the Ontario school system. The MOU will also address the gaps in knowledge about Inuit within the curriculum. Tungasuvvingat Inuit has been involved in the ministry’s curriculum refresh with new and relevant information for grades 4-10 in Social*

*Studies and History across the province. The new curriculum will also ensure that all Ontario students will learn accurate information about Inuit in their studies.”* Jason LeBlanc, Executive Director of Tungasuvvingat Inuit.

Tungasuvvingat Inuit and the Ministry of Education will work together to improve the educational outcomes and well-being of Inuit students by aligning our work with the *Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework* and Tungasuvvingat Inuit’s draft Ontario Inuit Education Strategy document. The shared goals in this MOU will take time and resources to achieve. The strengthened relationship provides the ministry with Inuit expertise and supports Inuit self-determination in the province.

Tungasuvvingat Inuit is a provincial organization serving Inuit within the Province of Ontario. For more information, please visit our website at [www.tungasuvvingatinuit.ca](http://www.tungasuvvingatinuit.ca).

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