

# Law Establishing the Official Languages of the Principality of Tartupaluk

## Preamble

The Reigning Prince of Tartupaluk, being committed to the preservation, development and enhancement of the Inuktitut language of the first peoples of the territory of the Principality; believing that the legal protection of the Inuktitut language will assist in preserving the culture of the people of the Principality; recognizing that the position of the English language in the Principality needs no legislation to support it but nonetheless understanding that giving the English language equality of status as an official language of the Principality can only hasten the development of the Principality and its integration into the world community; desiring that all linguistic groups in the Principality should, without regard to their first language learned, have equal opportunities to obtain employment and participate in the institutions of the Government of the Principality; decides as follows:

## Article 1

English and Inuktitut are the official languages of the Principality.

## Article 2

To the extent and in the manner provided in this law and any regulations under this law, the official languages of the Principality have equality of status and equal rights and privileges as to their use in all institutions of the Government of the Principality.

## Article 3

As soon as is practicable, a single standard dialect and orthography for use in public administration shall be specified by the Prince for each official language.

## Article 4

A law of the Principality or international agreement to which the Principality is a party may be written in any language but when such an instrument is written in a foreign language an official translation of the instrument into at least one official language of the Principality shall be made by order of the Prince before he gives his assent to the instrument.

## Article 5

Every member of the Legislative Assembly of the Principality has the right to use any official language of the Principality in the Hearings, Deliberations, and other proceedings of the Assembly. The Assembly shall neither adopt nor have established for it any rule of procedure which limits this right.

All Records and journals of the Assembly shall be published in an authoritative version in at least one official language of the Principality.

## Article 6

All Proclamations and other instruments in writing directed to or intended for the notice of the public and purporting to be made or issued by or under the authority of the Prince or his Government shall be promulgated in at least one official language of the Principality and in such other languages as may be prescribed by regulation.

## Article 7

Any official language of the Principality may be used by any person in, or in any pleading in or process issuing from, any court or tribunal or other institution or body of the Government of the Principality.

A court may, in any proceedings conducted before it, cause facilities to be made available for the simultaneous interpretation of the proceedings, including evidence given and taken, from one official language of the Principality into another where it considers the proceedings to be of general public interest or importance or where it otherwise considers it desirable to do so for members of the public in attendance at the proceedings.

## Article 8

All final decisions, orders and judgments, including any reasons given for them, issued by any court or tribunal or other similar institution or body of the Government of the Principality shall be issued in at least one official language of the Principality and in all official languages where either the decision, order or judgment determines a question of law of general public interest or importance or the proceedings leading to the issue of the decision, order or judgment were conducted in whole or in part in more than one official language of the Principality.

Where a body by which a final decision, order or judgment including any reasons given for it is to be issued in all official languages of the Principality under this Article is of the opinion that to issue it in both official languages would occasion a delay either prejudicial to the public interest or resulting in injustice or hardship to any party to the proceedings

leading to its issue, the decision, order or judgment, including any reasons given for it, shall be issued in the first instance in its version in one of the official languages of the Principality and after that, within the time that is reasonable in the circumstances, in its version in other languages, each version to be effective from the time the first version is effective.

Nothing in this Article shall be construed as prohibiting the oral rendition or delivery, in one only of the official languages of the Principality, of any decision, order or judgment or any reasons given for it.

#### Article 9

Nothing in this law shall be construed as preventing the Prince or his Government from granting rights in respect of, or providing services in, any official language of the Principality in addition to the rights and services provided in this law.

Signed at Suursaq on 13 August 2006 and given thereby to the Principality.

[Signed]

His Serene Highness Prince Cavan of Tartupaluk, van Ulf