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## ECE Launches Minister's Cultural Circle

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 17, 2011)** – Today during Session, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty, launched the Minister's Cultural Circle to recognize those who contribute to preserving and promoting cultures and heritage in the NWT.

“The Cultural Circle helps build awareness among all residents of the NWT about the importance of promoting, protecting, preserving and celebrating our unique culture, heritage and ways of life,” said the Minister. “Culture continues to play a role in our day-to-day lives: hunting and trapping, traditional artwork and craftsmanship, alongside traditional values and languages, are all part of who we are as individuals and as a territory.”

The Circle recognizes contributors at the local, regional, or territorial level. There are three categories of recognition:

- Elders respected for their contributions of practice, promotion, guidance, teaching, leadership, vision, and hands-on participation in the areas of culture, heritage and language;
- Any organization, corporation, institution, organizing committee or social club that plays a lead role in developing and supporting community-based events that celebrate, promote or preserve culture and heritage; and
- Youth, under 25 years of age, who demonstrate a strong commitment to engaging in cultural learning and practice.

Successful candidates will be welcomed into the Minister's Cultural Circle annually.

The Cultural Circle aligns with the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly's goal to strengthen awareness of our northern identity and uniqueness by promoting our successes, our culture, our arts, and our languages with a proud and unified voice.

### **For more information, contact:**

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**Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:**

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