



## News Release

### **Charlie Panigoniak awarded the 2016 Nunavut Commissioner's Performing Arts Award**

**IQALUIT, Nunavut (November 7, 2016)** – The Commissioner of Nunavut Nellie Kusugak today announced the recipient of the 2016 Nunavut Commissioner's Performing Arts Award. Charlie Panigoniak of Rankin Inlet will receive a cash prize of \$10,000, a certificate and a Commissioner's medallion.

"It is an honour to recognize Mr. Panigoniak for his outstanding contribution to Nunavut's performing arts", said Commissioner Kusugak. "Charlie Panigoniak created songs as an Inuk. He has travelled to many places to perform and he is a very good role model."

Legendary singer-songwriter, Charlie Panigoniak was one of the first Inuit to write, perform and record his own contemporary songs in Inuktitut in the 1970s and 1980s. He is a pioneer and has paved the way for many Inuit musicians. He is also a role model for younger Inuit musicians, and a major influence to artists like Susan Aglukark, Looee Arreak, Gustin Adjun and The Jerry Cans.

"Charlie Panigoniak is a territorial treasure, his songs are full of joy and humour, and capture the very essence of community life in Nunavut," said Commissioner Kusugak.

The Nunavut Commissioner's Arts Award was created by the Former Commissioner Ann Meekidjuk Hanson to honour the artistic achievement of established Nunavut artists. Nominations are reviewed by a selection committee, whose members have an in-depth knowledge of arts and culture in Nunavut. Nominees are judged on their artistic achievements and the quality and impact of their work.

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