



News Release

Nunavut leads the way in Aboriginal education, Education Minister told at conference

IQALUIT, Nunavut (December 6, 2000) – Education Minister Peter Kilabuk heard that Nunavut is a leader in Aboriginal education during the 14th Commonwealth Education Ministers' Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Minister Kilabuk was a keynote speaker at the Conference, which was attended by 54 countries, speaking on "Issues and Solutions in Aboriginal Education."

"Delegates who attended the presentation remarked that Nunavut seems to be one of the leaders in Aboriginal education in the Commonwealth," Minister Kilabuk said. "The Government of Nunavut has been working to have Inuktitut taught in our schools, and as a result of the Teacher Education Program, we now have a larger portion of the teachers in our schools with Inuktitut as their first language. This has been very helpful in further developing the Inuktitut curriculum."

The main theme of the Conference was Education in a Global Era: Challenges to Equity, Opportunities for Diversity. Sub-themes included accessibility, social and economic development, enhancing cultural integrity, strengthening quality and promoting mobility.

Nunavut's Department of Education participated in an on-site trade fair and displayed highlights of education in the territory. Of specific interest were the measures being taken in Nunavut to ensure the survival of Inuit language and culture. This was a concern shared by many Commonwealth countries where English dominates.

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