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Department of Education

Kavamat Elihaktoliginikot Havakviat

Ministère de l'Éducation

News Release

Minister Sets Course for Education Priorities

BAKER LAKE, Nunavut (September 1, 2004) – In celebration of a new school year, Education Minister Ed Picco has held his first meetings with representatives of Kivalliq district education authorities and the Kivalliq district principals to seek future direction for education in Nunavut.

"I will be discussing and seeking advice from people throughout the territory on implementation of education priorities that are designed to build a system that better reflects Inuit societal values," Picco said. "I was very pleased in Baker Lake to receive valuable feedback on a made-for-Nunavut Education Act, creation of a language of instruction policy and curriculum development, among other initiatives."

Picco is expected to visit all three Nunavut regions to discuss priorities such as the Education Act, language of instruction and the curriculum as well as funding formulas for schools.

"I will be talking to people and seeking advice in the spirit of Aajiiqatigiinniq (decision making through, discussion and consensus), one of the main Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit guiding principles for the Government. It is essential to meet with as many people as possible to discuss the new plan for the proposed Education Act, among other new initiatives the department would like to achieve."

The minister used the opportunity to hold discussions in Baker Lake during his visit to attend a graduation ceremony and the opening of Jonah Amit'naaq School.

"If we wish to achieve the government's priority of Ilippallianginnarniq (continuing learning), the full potential of a made-for-Nunavut Education Act and curriculum will be the foundation for success."

Qikiqtani district education authorities will meet with the minister in September, while a visit to the Kitikmeot is scheduled for October.

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