



News Release

Education Minister announces new positions for schools

IQALUIT, Nunavut (April 28, 2005) – Education Minister Ed Picco today announced the regional allocation of new staff for schools, to take effect this fall.

“We are striving for a 20:1 Pupil-Teacher Ratio, which would make Nunavut classrooms among the smallest in Canada,” Picco said. “With the new funds approved by the Legislative Assembly earlier this year, we are in a better position to put all our schools on a level playing field for PTR.”

A total of 82.5 FTEs (full-time equivalents) will be added to the existing government employee base of 718 FTEs as follows:

- Teachers13
- Program (Student) Support Teachers.....2
- Language Specialists.....5
- School Counsellors8
- Custodians.....14.5
- Student Support Assistants40

“This is but the first phase of our department’s fundamental shift to strong, dynamic learning environments,” Picco said. “This phase will primarily affect our K-12 public schools. In future, we plan to bring about similar improvements for Early Childhood Education and Adult Learning.”

Other changes contemplated for the K-12 system in the coming years include taking Principals out of the PTR, offering multiple graduation options, establishing a standard for school-based IT support, and further refinements to the school funding formula to better meet current and future needs.

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Background:

Education Minister announces 82 new positions for schools

Proposed Staffing Allocation

2005-06 School Year

New staff (FTEs) by position and region:

POSITION TYPE	KITIKMEOT	KIVALLIQ	OIKIQTANI	TOTAL <i>BY POSITION TYPE</i>
Teacher	2	1	10	13
Program (Student) Support Teacher	1	.5	.5	2
Language Specialist	0	3	2	5
School Counsellor	5	2	1	8
Custodian	3.5	6	5	14.5
Student Support Assistant	8	11.5	20.5	40
TOTAL <i>BY REGION</i>	19.5	24	39	82.5

- A school-by-school breakdown will be available once consultations with DEAs, Regional School Operations and the Conseil scolaire francophone are concluded later this year.
- Nunavut has 41 schools in three regions: Baffin 22, Kivalliq 11, and Kitikmeot 8.
- Nunavut enrollments in K-12 for 2004/05 by region are as follows:

Kivalliq – 2703	Kitikmeot – 1518
Baffin - 4590	Total – 8811
- The Department of Education is the second-largest in the Government of Nunavut by expenditures. The 2005-06 Main Estimates call for expenditures of:

Operations & Maintenance	\$174,224,000
Capital	\$19,093,000
Total	\$193,317,000