

News Release

Annual Funding to Improve French Language Instruction

IQALUIT, Nunavut (December 13, 2005) – The Council of Ministers of Education and the federal government have signed an agreement that will provide \$1.27 million annually over four years to improve the quality of French instruction in Nunavut. This funding is part of a pan-Canadian arrangement that will help all the provinces and territories improve their minority language and second language/ immersion instruction.

"I am very pleased that Nunavummiut are receiving this funding. The Government of Nunavut, along with the Council of Ministers of Education and the federal government, have worked tirelessly to secure these resources," said Education Minister Ed Picco. "This money will help to improve the quality of French education in Nunavut, as well as provide bilingual learning opportunities for many more Nunavummiut."

The funds from the Official Languages in Education Protocol will be used to support the Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut and the Iqaluit District Education Authority in providing quality French language instruction. The money will be used to purchase new resources and provide professional development training for teachers. The funds will also be used for an exchange program for students studying French, and the possibility of introducing French instruction into Nunavut communities.

The Department of Education works to protect all of Nunavut's official languages in education. Work continues on the Bilingual Education Strategy, which will result in curricula for Nunavummiut in Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun. This curricula will include the knowledge and skills of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit to reflect the culture and values of Nunavut.

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