

## News Release

## Public consultation to be held on *Education Act*

**IQALUIT, Nunavut** (May 4, 2005) – Education Minister Ed Picco today announced that the public phase of consultations on revisions to the Nunavut *Education Act* has begun.

"Nunavummiut want a made-in Nunavut *Education Act* that reflects Inuit values and culture," Picco said. "We want to ensure the best possible quality of education for our children."

A new steering committee will guide the revisions to the existing act. It will meet for the first time this week. It has members from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Federation of Nunavut Teachers, Nunavut Association of Municipalities, Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut, and the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit (Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and the Department of Education.)

Community visits will start soon. This will allow the Department of Education to meet with local District Education Authorities (DEAs) and hold public workshops to discuss issues of concern. The department will soon release a brochure to inform the public about the purpose of the community visits. There will also be a discussion paper with background information and questions to guide discussion. The brochure and paper will be distributed through newspapers as well as be on hand at all community meetings.

Consultations for education legislation occurred during the mandate of the last government. Results from that work will be reflected in the consultations that have just begun.

"The community visits will allow us to hear the concerns of Nunavummiut directly," Picco said. "I know there is a wide range of views on language of instruction, types of programs, discipline and community involvement in the school system. We need to hear them all."

## **For More Information Contact:**

Manitok Thompson Legislative Specialist Department of Education (867) 975-5672 educationact@gov.nu.ca Brad Chambers A/Executive Assistant Minister's Office (867) 975-5020

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