



## News Release



### Teachers, Nunavut Reach Tentative Agreement

**IQALUIT, Nunavut (October 27, 2002)** – The Government of Nunavut and the Federation of Nunavut Teachers have reached a tentative collective agreement.

Human Resources Minister Hon. Louis Tapardjuk, Finance Minister Hon. David Simailak and Education Minister Hon. Edward Picco, announced the tentative agreement today.

Jimmy Jacquard, President of the Federation of Nunavut Teachers (FNT), said that the offer represents a fair deal for the teachers of Nunavut.

"The tentative agreement is a balanced result. It will allow the government to live within its fiscal means while being fair to teachers," said Minister Simailak.

The union leader, his negotiating team and the FNT executive will be recommending acceptance of the new agreement to its 630 members. A membership vote is expected to be held during the next several weeks.

"Both negotiating teams worked hard to achieve an agreement that is responsible to taxpayers and to teachers," said Minister Tapardjuk.

"We recognize the value of our teachers and the importance they play in shaping the lives of our children," said Minister Picco. "We will continue to work with educators across Nunavut to ensure that our students receive the quality education that they deserve."

"It remains the vision of the Government of Nunavut and the Federation of Nunavut Teachers to implement the new contract as soon as possible," said Mr. Jacquard.

The new collective agreement is for a period of four years, expiring June 30, 2009. On an accumulated basis the salary offer represents an increase of approximately 11% over the life of the agreement. It also includes increases to the Nunavut Northern Allowance that

will vary depending upon the employee's community of residence. There will be enhancements to parental leave, the dental plan and accidental death and dismemberment insurance. In recognition of the unique nature of the teaching profession, an allowance will be provided to teachers during the life of the agreement.

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