

News Release

New Funding will Strengthen Early Childhood Programs

IQALUIT, Nunavut (**December 13, 2006**) – Education Minister Ed Picco announced today that new funding of \$600,000 will strengthen early childhood programs in Nunavut.

"This money will help licensed early childhood programs provide quality programming for our youngest citizens," said Picco.

In addition to the \$500,000 going to licensed early childhood facilities the Department of Education will spend \$100,000 on resources such as children's books reflecting life in Nunavut. These books will be available in all four languages.

"Developing books specifically for Nunavut's infants and young children is an important first step in their education," said Picco. "The earlier children are exposed to books in their own language, the stronger their language and literacy skills will become."

This money comes from the Federal Early Learning and Child Care Agreement that will end March 31, 2007.

The Department of Education is committed to building a life-long learning system that is seamless, accessible, and meaningful to learners of all ages.

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