

## News Release

## National Meetings on Distance Education held in Iqaluit

**IQALUIT, Nunavut (September 22, 2006)** – The Department of Education is hosting the annual Provincial Territorial Distance Education Association (PTDEA) meetings, September 25-26 in Iqaluit. This gathering hosts representatives from across the country, focusing on distance education and its benefits in Canada.

"Meeting with distance education experts from other jurisdictions allows us to develop a network of support," said Education Minister Ed Picco. "Using their best practices will help us as we work towards providing Nunavummiut with another range of learning opportunities."

George Siemens is this year's keynote speaker. He is one of Canada's leading experts on Electronic Learning. He has written about connectivism for the digital age, people learning and working together even though they are not in the same place.

Presentations will be made by numerous representatives from throughout the country on their respective region's distance education. Distance education is delivering instruction over distance so that students can be at any place and learn at anytime.

The department is exploring the learning opportunities that distance education can provide for individuals, schools and educators. Work is near completion for the first made-in-Nunavut pilot distance education course.

"Given the distances and cost of travel in Nunavut, distance education could provide the practical means to help learners and educators develop the skills they need without leaving their home community," said Picco.

The presentation by the keynote speaker will be available simultaneously online. The coordinators of the PTDEA meeting will be available to meet with the media on Monday, September  $25^{\text{th}}$  @ 4:30 p.m.

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