

News Release

Proposed Education Act to Strengthen Education System

IQALUIT, Nunavut (**November 6, 2007**) – The proposed *Education Act*, Bill 21, has been introduced in the Legislature by Education Minister Ed Picco.

"Bill 21 will fundamentally change the scope, direction and operations of schools, DEAs and education in Nunavut," said Picco. "After more than 100 community, school and District Education Authority (DEA) consultations, and meetings with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) and other stakeholder groups, we have created a document that truly reflects education in Nunavut."

The proposed legislation incorporates Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) throughout the bill. For the first time, a student-teacher ratio, guaranteed daily physical activity for students, and a commitment to enhance and create resources in Inuktitut will be legislated. It ensures an IQ framework in school programming and curriculum, dedication to bilingual education, more responsibility for DEAs and additional support for students and teachers.

Along with the new *Act*, over \$14 million a year will be injected to revitalize education in Nunavut. This money will enhance Inuit language programming and resources, provide community school counsellors in every school in Nunavut and for the first time, provide appropriate pay and certification for Elders' who teach cultural and language programming based on life experiences.

"This *Act* was created with the input of Nunavummiut – DEAs, teachers, students, Elders, steering committee members and countless others. Their comments and opinions have been the base upon which we built this vital framework," said Picco. "This new Bill signals progress and change for our education system. I encourage parents, Elders, students and educators to be involved and help create a successful future for Nunavut."

For more information or to download Bill 21, Nunavut's *Education Act*, please visit www.gov.nu.ca/education.

-30-

For more information:

Catriona Macleod
Communications Manager,
Department of Education

1 (867) 975.5624 **2** (867) 975.5605

⊠cmacleod@gov.nu.ca

News releases are available in Inuktitut, English, Inuinnaqtun and French on www.gov.nu.ca.

Tuhaqtaghat ittut Inuktitut, Qablunaatitut, Inuinnaqtun Uiviititullu talvani www.gov.nu.ca.

Les communiqués de presse sont disponibles en inuktitut, en anglais, en inuinnaqtun et en français à : www.gov.nu.ca.

Communications 2007-52-C