



Background

Since 1999, Nunavut has used the *Northwest Territories' Education Act*. In 1999, the Department of Education began work on a new draft specific to Nunavut.

Bill 1, the first draft of the made-in-Nunavut Education Act was introduced in 2002 and withdrawn from consideration by the Legislative Assembly in 2003.

Community consultations for this proposed Education Act began in late 2004. Every community in Nunavut was visited, with meetings with DEAs, teachers and the public. The three Regional Inuit Organizations, the *Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut* (CFSN), the Nunavut Teachers' Association, the Nunavut Disabilities Society, DEA representatives and the Nunavut Association of Municipalities were consulted as members of a steering committee co-chaired by NTI, which met several times over the past two years.

The feedback provided at the various meetings and consultations serves as the base for the draft and ensures that the Bill reflects the needs of Nunavummiut.

There are major changes involved with the new proposed legislation, including:

- Commitment to IQ from the Minister of Education, DEAs and school staff.
- Dedication to bilingual education with the Inuit language.
- More responsibility for District Education Authorities in policy development, and administration of principals and school activities.
- More support for students through inclusion, attendance programs and in-school suspensions with assistance plans, and a guaranteed student-educator ratio.
- Creation of a DEA association to provide policy support, training, fundraising and planning.

Bill 21 incorporates recommendations made from submissions, reaction and responses from the first proposed Education Act in 2003 and the 2006 report by Thomas Berger, as well as fulfilling commitments made in *Pinasuaqtavut*.

The proposed Education Act will now go before the Standing Committee on Health and Education for 120 days to review, hold public consultation and provide recommendations.