



News Release

Inuksuk High School to be Renovated Over Summer Holidays

IQALUIT, Nunavut (August 26, 2008) – Minister of Education Ed Picco today announced plans to renovate Iqaluit's Inuksuk High School over the next four summer breaks, beginning this year. The renovations are tentatively scheduled to be complete by fall 2012.

"This decision was made in close consultation with the Iqaluit District Education Authority (IDEA), the Department of Community and Government Services (C&GS) and the parents, staff and students of Inuksuk High School," said Picco. "The final product will be an updated facility with new amenities, which retains the overall size of the school at our original budget. This is the overwhelming direction we heard from all the parties involved."

Upgrades to Inuksuk High School have been planned for several years, as the building is now 38 years old. Many factors led to delays in this capital planning project, including rising construction costs, safety concerns and placement of students. During recent months, the idea of modular classrooms seemed like a possible solution. However, the cost for this plan was simply too high, given the capital needs in other communities throughout Nunavut.

"The safety of staff and students has always been our focus during this process," said IDEA Chairperson Lori Idlout. "Slow renovation during periods where the building is empty, ensures their health and well-being. I'd like to thank Iqalummiut for their patience and understanding as we came to this important decision."

Work is set to begin next summer with major cleansing of the entire school, clean-out of the ventilation system and extensive planning and design for future years. The total cost of the renovations is budgeted at \$21.2 million.

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For more information:

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