

News Release

Minister Picco responds to NTI's annual report

IQALUIT, Nunavut (**February 14, 2008**) – Honourable Ed Picco, Minister Responsible for Education, is welcoming Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI)'s annual report on Kindergarten to grade 12 education in Nunavut, *Saqqiqpuq*.

"I believe NTI's report highlights the content and value of Bill 21, *Nunavut's Education Act*, as well as its focus on culture, commitment to bilingual education in Inuit language and increased local control of education," said Picco. "The Government of Nunavut is dedicated to a made-in-Nunavut Education Act. We agree with NTI's priorities and are working to increase cultural activities in schools, address the shortage of Inuit teachers, and develop more curriculum and resources that include the Inuit knowledge and skills of our Elders."

Many of the issues raised in NTI's report have already been addressed in Bill 21, which is currently in front of the Standing Committee on Health and Education. NTI was a cochair on the Education Act Steering Committee.

The Government of Nunavut believes that increasing local control of the District Education Authorities (DEAs), allows for more specialized programming and power within individual communities and that this approach is more responsive and accountable.

At present, the Department of Education is working with the Nunavut Arctic College to reinvigorate the Nunavut Teacher Education Program, bringing the program to additional communities and providing for the delivery of an aboriginal language and cultural certificate program.

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