



News Release

Update on the Inuksuk High School Capital Project

IQALUIT, Nunavut (June 13, 2008) – The Iqaluit District Education Authority (IDEA) and the Department of Education have narrowed the options for the proposed Inuksuk High School renovation project. There are now two feasible possibilities: building a new school or renovating the existing building over several years, during scheduled school breaks.

“There have been many factors which led to delays in getting this project off the ground,” said Minister of Education Ed Picco. “When we began planning for this project in 2004 no one could have foreseen the incredible cost increases in the construction sector. After thorough and careful investigation, I believe these are the two best solutions for the students and staff of the high school.”

Earlier this year, constructing modular classrooms to temporarily house the high school students was thought to be a feasible solution. After extensive research and analysis, it was determined the cost was simply too high, given the capital needs in other communities throughout Nunavut. There is currently \$21.2 million allotted to this project. Both the Government of Nunavut and the IDEA feel that this money would best be spent on renovations to Inuksuk High School or the construction of a new school.

“We have been very pleased with the collaborative approach between the Iqaluit District Education Authority and the Department of Education so far,” said Chairperson of the IDEA Lori Idlout. “We will continue to work together to come to an agreement in regards to the high school project. We appreciate and value the opinions and concerns of the people, and need to hear the voices of the community before a collaborative decision is made.”

A public meeting to discuss these options is scheduled for June 21, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. at the St. Jude’s Parish Hall. Parents, students, staff and interested community members are invited to attend and share their views.

-30-

For more information:

Angela Burns
Office Manager, Iqaluit District Education Authority
979-5314
aburns@qikiqtani.edu.nu.ca

