



Education Week 2010: Focus on Parental Engagement

IQALUIT, Nunavut (April 22, 2010) –The Department of Education is encouraging parents to continue to take an active role in their children's learning. Research shows that parental engagement is a key factor in students' educational achievement. In Nunavut, parental engagement means a variety of things, including fostering a child's knowledge, becoming involved in the school community, reinforcing learning at home, and encouraging interest in culture, heritage and language.

"Participating in our children's education makes a huge difference in their development," said the Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Acting Minister of Education. "*Education in Nunavut: learning with culture, tradition and innovation*! means becoming involved with the school community and continuing the school lessons at home."

Schools, early childcare facilities, District Education Authorities and teachers can help parents find tools to aid in their children's educational development. Parents and guardians are encouraged to speak with educators and administrators to start an on-going dialogue about what's happening in Nunavut schools, and how we can all work together to produce healthy and capable graduates.

The Department of Education is asking parents, guardians, students and community members to become involved in the development of *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq* policies in their local schools to enhance student success. Parental engagement in early childcare facilities, preschool, schools and post-secondary education is paramount.

"Our school system provides the means for children to become literate and capable, but we need parents and guardians to help them succeed. Read with your children, expose them to languages, do homework together, and pledge to teach them something new every day," said Tootoo.

Education Week is an annual event, aimed at acknowledging Nunavut's educators and raising awareness about the importance of education in building a Nunavut that is self-reliant, connected and vibrant. For more information, please visit: <u>www.edu.gov.nu.ca</u>.

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