

## **News Release**

For Immediate Release

## **Department of Education releases consultation report**

**Iqaluit, Nunavut (May 30, 2019)** – The Department of Education today released *Choosing Our Path Forward*, the report detailing the 2018-2019 *Education Act* and *Inuit Language Protection Act* community consultations.

"I greatly appreciate the feedback we received during our consultations," said Minister of Education David Joanasie. "Comments from Nunavummiut helped shape the proposed amendments to the *Education Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. This feedback creates a shared vision for education and the protection and promotion of Inuktut."

The report outlines the observations and ideas of Nunavummiut and education partners on bilingual education and language of instruction, the roles and responsibilities of District Education Authorities (DEA) and the Department of Education, the DEA Council, and transition regulations. The report also includes comments on retaining and revitalizing language and culture, and strengthening capacity in schools.

Between September 11, 2018 and January 22, 2019, a consultation team traveled to all 25 Nunavut communities. In total, 829 Nunavummiut participated in these consultations. The Department of Education also received written submissions from six DEAs, five partner organizations, and 33 Nunavummiut.

"Nunavummiut are passionate about education, and see the children and youth of this territory given the best opportunities possible," said Minister Joanasie. "I want to thank all the communities of Nunavut, as well as the important contributions of staff from the departments of Education and Culture and Heritage, representatives from Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and the Coalition of Nunavut DEAs, whose work has been essential."

*Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Education Act and Inuit Language Protection Act will be* introduced during the spring sitting of the Nunavut Legislative Assembly. Members of the Legislative Assembly will have the opportunity to debate the bill during the fall sitting. The report is available online at <u>ourgoalsforeducation.ca</u>.

## Media Contact:

Jean-Philippe Laprise Manager, Communications Department of Education 867-975-5645 jplaprise@gov.nu.ca