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News Release

For Immediate Release

Aqsarniit Ilinniarnvik closed due to ongoing smell of fumes

Iqaluit, Nunavut (February 8, 2022) – The Department of Education in conjunction with the Department of Community and Government Services (CGS) and the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC), today updated Iqalumiut on the Aqsarniit Ilinniarnvik closure due to lingering fumes from a reported issue with a loose fuel connection.

"CGS hired an environmental firm to assess the indoor air quality at Aqsarniit Ilinniarnvik," said Minister of Community and Government Services, David Joanasie. "The department will continue to assess the situation and determine when it is safe to reopen the school."

On Thursday, February 3, CGS responded to a fuel smell at Aqsarniit Ilinniarnvik. The source of the odor was quickly identified as a loose fuel connection. The connection was immediately repaired and the mechanical room was cleaned, but the school remained closed on February 4 due to the lingering smell of fumes.

On Monday, February 7, the WSCC issued a stop work order for Aqsarniit Ilinniarnvik due to the air quality at the school. As a result, the school is closed to staff and students until further notice.

"We are grateful that CGS and the WSCC are working with our department to ensure the ongoing health and safety of the students and staff at Aqsarniit Ilinniarnvik," said Minister of Education, Pamela Gross. "We also appreciate the work of the Iqaluit District Education Authority in supporting the Aqsarniit school community. We know that Aqsarniit students have had a number of interruptions to their learning in the last few weeks. We are hopeful that this situation can be resolved quickly so that students can resume classes safely."

CGS is meeting with the Department of Education and the Iqaluit District Education Authority on Wednesday, February 9 to provide an update on the situation at Aqsarniit Ilinniarvik.

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