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Building *Nunavut* Together  
*Nunavut* iuqatigiingniq  
Bâtir le *Nunavut* ensemble

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Department of Education  
Ilinniaqtuliyikkut  
Ministère de l'Éducation



## **Minister's Speaking Notes**

### **Education Act Introduction Press Conference**

**June 5, 2019**

**Iqaluit, Nunavut**

**Honourable David Joanasie**

**Minister of Education**



- Ullukkut, bonjour, good morning everyone.
- Nine months ago, I stood here to announce the start of the *Education Act* consultations.
- The consultations team, led by the Department of Education, traveled to all 25 Nunavut communities, listening to the ideas and concerns of education like Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) and the Coalition of Nunavut District Education Authorities (CNDEA), and also those of the District Education Authorities (DEAs), community members, and youth groups.
- Over 800 Nunavummiut expressed a diversity of experiences and perspectives. Each one helped to shape our understanding of the issues facing our education system. This input was carefully considered in the bill I presented yesterday in the legislature.



- Bill 25, An Act to amend the *Education Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, seeks to fulfill the commitment made by the Government of Nunavut in our mandate document, *Turaaqtavut*, of improving our education system and preserving and strengthening our Inuit Language.
  
- The amendments presented in this bill reflect the feedback we received from the consultations, resulting in significant changes to the initial proposals.
  
- **10** proposed amendments have been modified; **8** new amendments have been incorporated; and **all** proposals related to the establishment of a new DEA Council that would have replaced the CNDEA have been removed.
  
- More specifically, Bill 25 will amend the *Education Act* by:
  - consolidating references to Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit into Part 1 of the Act;



- redefining the education and local community programs to clarify the roles of the Minister and the DEAs;
- revising provisions related to inclusive education, clarifying the process under the Minister's authority;
- establishing 3 school calendars, one for each of the Qikiqtaaluk, Kivalliq and Kitikmeot School Operations, for 9 calendars in total;
- revising provisions related to language of instruction, ensuring Inuit Language capacity is properly utilized and monitored;
- delivering a phased implementation of Inuit Language instruction from grades 4 to 12 over a period of 20 years;



- revising and clarifying the powers of DEAs, including the Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut (CSFN); and
- enhancing the role of the CNDEA in supporting community DEAs by increasing funding and staffing.
- This bill will also amend the *Inuit Language Protection Act* to phase in implementation of bilingual education over a 20 year period.
  - This bilingual education timeframe was determined by a detailed plan that shows how the department will develop Inuktitut Language Arts curriculum, resources, assessment tools, and educator training.
  - The department is also developing a 10-year retention and recruitment strategy to support the implementation of the bilingual model set out in this plan.



- Implementation deadlines for bilingual education in grades K-3, which was July 2009, will remain in force.
- Together, the amendments in Bill 25 are designed to:
  - Improve the quality of education, the allocation of resources (including assigning teachers during a territory-wide Inuktitut-speaking teacher shortage), and the ability to properly assess students and student outcomes.
  - Clarifies the roles and responsibilities for everyone working in the education system:
  - Ensures that delivering bilingual education is based on the department's actual capacity so that the system can better address the challenges of retaining and recruiting Inuktitut-speaking teachers.



- Increase DEAs ability to advocate for their community through better training and reduced administrative burdens.
- Provide improvements to Inclusive Education, related assessments and the development of Individual Student Support Plans.
- Education is one of the best ways young Nunavummiut can obtain the tools and skills necessary for a rapidly changing world, while still holding true to their language, culture and identity.
- I believe that Bill 25 strikes this balance between promoting and strengthening our Inuit language and culture, while preparing young Nunavummiut for a prosperous future.
- I look forward to hearing the comments and questions from the MLAs, our education partners, and all Nunavummiut.
- Qujannamiik. Thank you. Merci.