



May 9, 2017

Tom Sammurtok
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Legislation
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Dear Mr. Sammurtok,

RE: Review of Bill 37

I note with much concern the statement and letter from the Standing Committee on Legislation setting out its plan to end the study of Bill 37 before fully completing the review process.

As you know, the urgent need to review and improve the *Education Act* within the life of this government was identified as a top priority in Sivumut Abluqta, as well as the 2015 report of the Special Committee to Review the *Education Act*.

The primary goal of the amendments was to improve student outcomes and identify a clear path going forward in delivering a strong, bilingual system. Many of the proposed amendments made targeted administrative improvements addressing on-going operational challenges identified since 2008.

I am writing to ask that Standing Committee reconsider its decision to end the review process early. I would like the opportunity to meet with you to hear your specific concerns about Bill 37. This discussion will allow us the opportunity to determine if there is room for compromise with respect to the proposals, which is work that I am willing and open to undertake.

As the decision of the Standing Committee has not been formalized in a report to the Legislative Assembly, I believe we still have time to build consensus.

Even if there is disagreement over certain aspects of Bill 37, we still have an opportunity make at minimum some modest improvements to the legislation, which is in keeping with our legislative mandate as we pursue Sivumut Abluqta.



- The development and implementation of the Education Program Plan directive for principals to support reporting on language of instruction capacity in schools;
- The ongoing review of the Nunavut Teacher Education Program, with the aim of increasing the number of Inuit graduates and, importantly;
- The design and development of a certificate program for Student Support Assistants;
- The launch of a literacy initiative and its attendant professional development opportunities such as in-service training and courses for principals and learning coaches that have been offered to support implementation of the framework;
- The successful creation of positions and hiring of Learning Coaches for all schools in Nunavut to work on literacy skills with students;
- The development of a guided reading system for Inuktitut which includes the development of over 300 Inuktitut books as part a guided reading program in Inuktitut and accompanying teacher resources;
- The initiation of a guided reading system for Inuinnaqtun which will parallel the Inuktitut system;
- Updated and improved K-6 Inuktitut Language Arts curriculum, developed and soon to be introduced in schools;
- The work with linguists, Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit, contractors, educators and other experts to identify additional supports required to assist education staff towards language instruction;
- On-going work to improve the delivery of inclusive education and the development of a new student assessment framework;
- The establishment of an Educator Development division within the Department of Education to better support and train school employees;
- The plans for an Inuktitut focused version of the Certificate in Educational Leadership in Nunavut program to be held this year;
- The ongoing collaboration with NTI on the development of an ambitious new Inuit Employment Plan targeting the training, recruitment and retention of Inuit educators across all grades;
- Producing bilingual graduates prepared to use Inuktitut as a language of instruction.

