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Nunavut Maligaliurvia
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

RELEASE

Standing Committee on Health and Education successfully completes round of public consultations on Bill 1, the proposed new *Education Act*

IQALUIT, Nunavut (October 21, 2002) Almost half of Nunavut's communities were visited earlier this month by the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Health and Education as part of its review of Bill 1, the proposed new Education Act.

All eight Members and Alternates participated in the extensive process, which involved public hearings attended by close to 500 Nunavummiut. MLAs divided into two teams in order to cover the number of communities involved. Residents of Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Cape Dorset, Arviat, Igloolik, Repulse Bay, Taloyoak, Pond Inlet, Gjoa Haven, Kugaaruk, Clyde River, Qikiqtarjuaq, Kugluktuk and Cambridge Bay addressed Committee Members during the community tour.

"It is clear to Members that the needs and aspirations of Nunavummiut must be taken into account if this Bill is to become law," said Jobie Nutarak, MLA for Tunnunig and Chair of the Standing Committee.

Inclement weather prevented the Committee from arriving in Resolute Bay. This public hearing will be rescheduled to a later date. The Committee also plans to hold a public hearing in Pangnirtung later this month when the Sixth Session of the Legislative Assembly reconvenes. The Pangniurtung sitting will mark the third time since the creation of Nunavut that the Assembly has sat outside of the capital.

Committee Members heard a wide range of views and perspectives on the education system in Nunavut and some very specific input relating to Bill 1, the proposed new Education Act. "What we have heard will guide us in our deliberations on this Bill," said Chairman Nutarak.

Public hearings held in Iqaluit on October 1 and 2, 2002, kicked off the consultation process with presentations from stakeholders such as Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Association des Francophones du Nunavut, the Federation of Nunavut Teachers and the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut.

"The diversity of participants in this process impressed Members deeply," said Uriash Puqiqnak, MLA for Nattilik and Co-Chair of the Standing Committee. "Elders, parents, students, educators, District Education Authority members and community leaders all took the time to make their views known to us."

The Standing Committee has received a number of written submissions from interested organizations and individuals across Nunavut. The Committee welcomes and encourages members of the public to continue to submit their views on Bill 1. For more information or to make a submission, please contact the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut toll-free at 1-

877-334-7266; fax (867) 975-5190; email BillReview@assembly.nu.ca; regular mail PO Box 1200, Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0.

While in the communities, Members took the opportunity to visit a number of schools and learning centres. "This was a valuable chance to talk informally and get a front-line perspective on the issues before us," said Glenn McLean, MLA for Baker Lake and Committee Member.

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For more information:

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