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Nunavut Maligaliurvia
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

R E L E A S E

Legislative Assembly calls for greater federal investment in early learning and child care for Northern Canada

IQALUIT, Nunavut (November 24, 2005) – The Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut today unanimously passed a motion calling on the federal government to modify the funding allocation for the recently-announced five-year Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) initiative.

The federal government has committed five billion dollars to ELCC initiatives across the country. The ELCC funding will be allocated on a per capita basis. Nunavut, the NWT and Yukon have been united in calling for base funding to be provided to the three territories, in recognition that per capita funding alone will not adequately meet the needs of Northern children.

Minister of Education Ed Picco sponsored the motion. “Nunavut has been working hard with the other territories to achieve an agreement that will adequately meet the needs of children across the North. The support of all Members of the Legislative Assembly will serve to strengthen our position,” said Minister Picco.

The federal ELCC initiative also includes \$100 million specifically earmarked for First Nations. None of that \$100 million is available to Inuit, leaving Nunavut as the only jurisdiction in Canada that will not be able to access that portion of the ELCC funding.

Quttiktuq MLA Levi Barnabas said, “I seconded the motion because it is important for us as elected MLAs to make a strong statement that investing in our children is the right thing to do. Our population is young and predominantly Inuit. It is essential that we have access to resources that are intended for aboriginal Canadians.”

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