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Standing Committee invites Minister of Education to appear at hearing on Bill 21

IQALUIT, Nunavut (May 5, 2008) - Minister of Education Ed Picco has been invited to appear before the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Health and Education from May 20-21, 2008, to discuss Bill 21, Nunavut's proposed new *Education Act*.

Bill 21 received Second Reading in the Legislative Assembly on November 6, 2007. Following the referral of the bill to the Standing Committee, submissions were invited from stakeholder organizations and the Nunavut public. The Standing Committee held public hearings on Bill 21 from April 23-25, 2008.

Standing Committee Chair and Arviat MLA David Alagalak said, "The Standing Committee heard a number of concerns and recommendations concerning Bill 21 during its April hearings. There were a range of issues on which presenters expressed diverse views."

The hearings will begin at 1:30pm in the Tuktu Committee Room of the Legislative Assembly Building. They will be open to the public to observe.

Standing Committee Co-Chair and Baker Lake MLA David Simailak said, "Members of the Standing Committee look forward to discussing a number of important issues with the Minister of Education during his appearance."

Copies of Bill 21 are available on the Legislative Assembly's website at: <u>http://www.assembly.nu.ca</u>.

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