



no promises of when it will happen, due to the need for more teachers to teach Inuktitut (267 more teachers according to the Berger Report).

## **BI-LINGUAL EDUCATION**

The Coalition questioned where the DoE stands with curriculum materials. Inuktitut teaching materials have always been a concern as teachers don't have materials and have to make their own. Students in kindergarten see the same material in Grade 3 because there are no materials. The Coalition is hoping the DoE can provide proper Inuktitut curriculum.

The Minister stated that the DoE has not yet set Inuktitut standards for grade levels. He stated that adapting the standards to the different dialects in various communities was a problem. The Coalition stated that it was possible for the communities to adapt the materials to the dialects – they just need the material.

The position of the DoE is the 10-year plan presented at the last session. This 10-year strategy has implementation plans for both curriculum and training resources and would be shared with the Coalition.

The Coalition stated that they understood that the DoE was working on resources. However without resources the Inuit are losing their language day-by-day. Structured material is needed now. The Coalition does not want to keep being told it is being worked on, they want a time-line showing how it is progressing and when it will be ready. They want to move ahead in today's world, with today's possibilities.

The Minister said they would get the Coalition copies of the work being done. He also stated that the communities should not depend solely on the DoE to save the language, that children need to learn the language at home, and communities should use Elders, along with the Language of Instruction (LOI). He stated that in the new Act, Nunavut will have bilingual education – Inuktitut and English, and there would be an Inuktitut working government by 2020.

The Coalition said they wanted to work with the DoE. However, over 20 years ago teachers were recruited from the south and it's still the same. The Coalition thinks it is time there were Inuit teachers, teaching Inuktitut to the students. "We are told to keep fighting for our language rights. Over 20 years have passed and it is still the same." The Minister stated that the new Education Act has Inuktitut from K-12, stronger DEAs, support for parents, and curriculum.

## **DIVISIONAL BOARDS**

The Minister said that NTI has asked for a return to divisional boards but DoE doesn't want divisional boards – they want to have organizations they can talk to. Divisional Boards will not be put back in place – that is the present GN position..

The Coalition stated that Boards were put in place so communities could have a voice in the NWT. Now in Nunavut – communities have no voice.

The Minister asked how the Coalition could work with DoE. The new Education Act outlines the DEA roles. The DoE wants feed-back on what the communities want. The DoE believes stronger DEAs will support a stronger education system. The Minister would like to see the Coalition set up similar to Nunavut Association of Municipalities (NAM) and wants to give it as much authority as possible. Under the new Act DEAs can ask for responsibilities, the Ministry will review it, then say “OK”. Other DEAs might not want the same responsibilities.

The Minister indicated that the DoE is willing to look at the DEA Coalition budget on submission to the Minister and in the *Act* the Coalition will be allowed to say what responsibilities they want. The DoE will give the Coalition staff, offices, and formal recognition. The DEAs will be able to choose their LOI.

### **PUPIL/TEACHER RATIO (PTR)**

The DoE has been told the most important issue with the teachers is that the pupil/teacher ratio (PTR) be set at 20 students to 1 teacher. DoE has also been asked to take the principals (in schools with over 400 students) out of the formula, to set criterion standards tests, and pay Elders in schools at a B.Ed. degree level. The DoE needs to source and resource these requests. The Minister did not indicate whether the PTR would be legislated.

### **HIRING AND FIRING OF TEACHERS**

The Minister indicated that he was limited by Public Service Act in who could hire and fire teachers.

The Coalition stated that with their own Association, they could be involved in hiring and firing and hiring-firing for just cause should be elaborated more in labour agreements. The Coalition suggested that those communities that were unsure of their abilities could function under the Coalition until they built capacity. The Coalition stated that the Municipalities have the power to hire and fire, but the DEAs don't and they have less authority than the teachers or students. The Coalition would still have to follow the collective agreement, so the Coalition questioned why principals and teachers reporting would be a problem.

### **SPECIAL NEEDS ISSUES**

The Minister stated that currently 44 people are needed for specialist positions for special needs classes. He did not comment when asked if the DoE could ensure the right of children with disabilities to be covered by the *Act*. He did state, however, that busing for people with disabilities was part of Inclusive Schooling.

The NDMS member stated that when he returned to his community he would have to pass on information to NDMS. He stated that NDMS stood with the Coalition to help people with disabilities and finally see changes in education.

Another concern NDMS had was that although people with disabilities have run for positions on DEAs they are not elected due to their disability. NDMS questioned if DEAs could appoint a person with disabilities to their boards. The Minister made a note to recommend DEAs have power to appoint a person at large to their board.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Coalition will review documents tabled by the Minister today, and discuss them with DEAs. Jeeteeta will send a letter to the Minister within 10 days outlining the Coalition's response to the documents.

The Minister noted that he had heard some concerns about the Regional School Operations (RSOs) and he feels there might be some issues in this area. He stated he would speak to his staff about this.

He stated that once the Act passes, if the DEAs get 80% of what they want, they can look at the other 20% in 2 years when there is a new government. The Minister asked if the Ed Act should have a set of DEA Roles and Responsibilities to administer and a separate section on DEA responsibilities at the Minister's discretion? The Coalition stated they haven't seen any extra authorities in writing.

The Coalition has strong concerns about the loss of language. The Coalition stated that the DEAs, as parent representatives, wanted to be respected and treated as equals. The Coalition feels that the communities have capabilities and abilities and the Minister and DoE should respect that in the new legislation. The Coalition said what they were discussing is community empowerment.