



The overall observation was that the DEAs said if the government was not bringing back school boards, then DEAs need more authority. Right now it is clear that DEAs have not received more authority. The principals can ignore DEAs – The government's responses seem to be giving DEAs more responsibility but not more authority. It is up to you to decide. The letter and comments can be changed in whatever way you want.

Lori – I've looked at and reviewed both the letter and the comments on Bill 21 with the recommended changes. I like the way the letter is written to the Standing Committee. However, the language is a little weak. Can it be strengthened to show the level of frustration we have in terms of trying to improve the education system. In Iqaluit, I find the perception of authority is not there. People don't think the DEA is doing enough. I think that has to do with the Dept. of Education which has basically divided and conquered in taking away the voice of the community. I completely agree with the comments we have made about not having alternative ways in helping to improve a child's life.

KT – The comment on the weakness of the language is a good one and one that depends on your voice. I tried to be friendly. The GN is very sensitive to criticism – I didn't know where we wanted the language to be: weak/friendly or strong and angry.

Simon – I like strong and angry.

Lori – Since this is the second time around, we need to be adamant about it.

One thing I observed too was – I usually think when legislation is drafted there is a framework to each part – there are 17 different parts – but no consistent vision, no consistent format. Maybe each part should have a specific stated purpose, time frame, and duties. Bill 21 is not user friendly – I had to read the section on suspensions two or three times to see how it would work.

Simon – My interpretation was: As you know, DEAs want more authority, but looking at Bill 21, the principal can still suspend a student up to 5 days without notice to the DEA – that's very disturbing to me. A principal can do it, but we are trying to promote an atmosphere that DEAs are the caregivers.

KT – The Iqaluit DEA said suspensions are the reactive end; why not create an environment on the prevention side that works far better for students? I was surprised to see so much emphasis on the reaction side.

Lori – I totally got that sense as well. A good comment the Coalition could make is 'what are the measures of accountability for the Department of Education?' The Minister has authority and that's it. The IDEA has found no sense of who is accountable for what.

KT – GN is giving authority to the Francophones. They will say it is in the charter, but that's no reason not to do it for DEAs as well.

Simon – We should send that message loud and clear.

Jeeteeta – The Francophones feel more at home in Nunavut than we are.

Simon – In going through the Bill, #4 on school programs – We are trying to improve the relationship between communities and schools – This section is totally a 100% turn around. I want Jeeteeta to be loud and clear on this item as well – parents and community will be reluctant to go into the schools. I found it very offensive.

Lori – One last comment that I would want in the letter is that I disagree with the part they put in for the replacement of the Coalition – I think it is incredible that they put in a directive for what the new organization would be and what they would do – that they set out roles for what the Coalition should do.

KT – When a list of responsibilities gets into legislation, it pretty well has got to be that way. GN can't tell the Coalition what to do with other funding – to put in the legislation: this is the organization, this is its name and this is what it is going to do – this is condescending.

Lori – We can get the support of the Standing Committee by letting them see there is work that is already done by the Coalition. We may get their support – we could make them see why this legislation shouldn't be run by the bureaucrats.

KT – What I'm hearing is that the letter needs to be shortened and toughened up a bit.

Lori – Don't beat around the bush in the letter, get to the point. The standing committee will have legislation to review and other submissions. The final statement should concern the drafting of legislation. They should involve the Coalition and DEAs.

KT – I think we can expect the Standing Committee to ask the Coalition to give a presentation. We can say we already exist, recognize us.

Simon – Either recognize us or bring back the boards.

Alice stated that the Coalition needed to plan a date for a face-to-face meeting in Kugluktuk. Since we are out of time, we will make the arrangements by e-mail.

Finished: 4:00 p.m.