



# Chairpersons Report

**October 22 & 23, 2012**

Ulaakut, welcome to our Annual General Meeting of Nunavut DEAs.

I am very pleased to see that we have DEA members from most of the communities here. Some delegates here today are replacing their Chairperson who were not able to come. Welcome everyone.

I'd also like to mention our Board member Jack Anawak will be wearing two hats this week: the Iqaluit DEA representative (and Thank you Andrew Tagak who is representing Iqaluit DEA) and for the first time, representing Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

I think most of us will agree that it is very important that DEAs get together to discuss issues on how we can improve education in our communities.

The Coalition of Nunavut DEAs is responsible for organizing these meetings, and for following up on your issues and concerns.

At last year's AGM, DEAs again raised the issue of budgets. Many of you have expressed concern that since the new Education Act was enacted in 2008 you have more responsibilities for the same budget and you can't keep up.

The Coalition responded to these concerns by hiring a consultant to do research on the financial pressures DEAs are facing. You will hear the results of this research, this week from a representative of Aarluk Consulting.

Another concern the Coalition heard last year was that there needed to be more training materials for new DEA members. The Coalition signed a training agreement with the Department of Education last year, and this week, we will introduce the first Module on DEA training – on the topic of governance.

We have continued our work with the University of Prince Edward Island who is doing research in Nunavut on Inuit leadership in our schools. Last AGM we presented a film on this research, and we will be showing a follow-up film this year – this time the focus being on the students.

We also hired a summer student this year to look into a number of topics that DEA members have raised as concern at last year's AGM, including social passing, improving student attendance and getting more parents involved in education. We will present a summary of the research findings this week.

The Coalition has also continued to follow closely the work of Mary Simon on the National Strategy on Inuit Education. Mary was at last year's AGM to talk about the Strategy and this year we invited her back to talk about the Strategy's implementation.

It's also been a busy year for the Coalition Board.

At last year's AGM, DEAs voted to amend the by-laws of the Coalition to improve its Board structure, and we have done that.

DEAs also asked that the Coalition increase its visibility in other regions and we did that by having Board meetings in Gjoa Haven, Arviat, and our Executive Director travelled to Rankin Inlet.

Lori Idlout and myself also joined a NTI delegation to Greenland to exchange knowledge on education challenges and best practices.

There is a lot going on in education here in Nunavut, and we have invited the Deputy Minister of Education, Kathy Okpik, to our meeting this week to provide us with up to date information on what the priorities are in education for this year.

I am really confident that over the next few days there will be lots to learn, lots to share, and hopefully, you will return to your communities with lots of new ideas for improving education in your communities.

Please approach Nikki Eegeesiak, or our Office Administrator, Tina Price or myself if you have any questions. I'll now turn things over to Nikki who will go over the 3 day schedule and some house-keeping.