

Simon Kuliktana stated that he had always wanted boards, but has come to believe that Education Authorities are a good idea – if they are given some authority. He stated that a new *Education Act* should reflect Inuit values and that it hurts that the Inuit struggled for control over their own territory, but they don't have as much authority over their education as the Francophones do. He believes the DEAs should be able to take on more responsibilities, including that of hiring and firing staff, if they can show they are capable of doing it and a new *Education Act* should reflect that.

Tagak Curley said the MLAs were limited to what can be said in the house on new legislation. However, they can make comments through their member's statements. He said he would encourage the Coalition to continue putting out messages to the community and the MLAs through public releases. He congratulated the Coalition for the work that has been done.

Lori Idlout stated that small DEAs had lost the ability to have any authority. She was pleased that the Coalition had been formed as it had brought all the DEAs together to form one voice. She said Nunavumiut were moving toward community ownership and she feels Bill 21 goes completely against this development. Communities should be able to use their own knowledge and resources to find solutions.

David Alagalak said he had sent a letter to the Coalition informing them that hearings were going to be held on April 23 and 24, 2008. He feels the Coalition has made good comments on Bill 21 and would like to see the most critical ones go into the proposed new *Education Act*.

The MLAs stated that the extra money (\$14,000,000) is there. The Bill doesn't have to pass in order for the DEAs and schools to get the money. The MLAs want to be kept informed so they know where the DEAs stand. The Education Act Standing Committee went to the communities to discuss a new education act, but the Minister does not seem to have used the information received from the communities in the preparation of the new Act. The Nunavut Teachers Union (NTA) is very strong and the Minister seems to hold all the cards in his hands. Parents and DEAs are left with little, if any, authority. Some MLAs think the Minister may be under pressure not to devolve authority to DEAs.

Jeeteeta stated that when the Boards of Education disappeared from Nunavut a lot of parent's power was lost. It seems as though education is going back in time. There is a lot of tokenism, but Inuit are left out of real decision making. There are a lot of issues and problems. She thinks that QSO is becoming more supportive because of the Coalition.

Lori asked about how the Coalition could be involved in the amendment procedures if Bill 21 is passed but we wanted to make amendments. The MLAs said the Coalition could send the Minister a letter stating the areas of concern and asking if the Minister was willing to amend them. There could be a motion to amend in the Committee of the Whole as well.

Siobhan said that in our presentation at the public hearings, the Coalition will need to be more specific in requesting amendments. For example: "Section XX – The Coalition suggests that it be struck", or, "that it be changed to (state change here)."

The Coalition agreed on the following procedure:

1. The Coalition will choose the most important items they feel need revising

2. The executive director will document these items and e-mail them to the Coalition executive
3. The executive members will send back comments and suggested changes
4. The executive director will find a lawyer to help with legal writing of the document
5. The executive director will set up a teleconference with the Coalition executive and our lawyer to review the final document.

Meeting with the MLAs finished at 10:30 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion 12-03-08-01 that the Agenda be approved with the addition under AOB of a discussion of the Coalition by-laws.

Moved by: Lori Idlout

Seconded by: Johnny Kootook

PASSED

Approval of Minutes of October 4, 2007

Motion 12-03-08-01 that the Minutes of October 4, 2007 be approved.

Moved by: Lori Idlout

Seconded by: Simon Kuliktana

PASSED

Financial Report – October 2007-January 2008

The executive director presented the financial report and reviewed it with the members. There were no questions.

Motion 12-03-08-03 that the Financial Report – October 1, 2007 to January 31, 2008 be approved.

Moved by: Johnny Kootook

Seconded by: Jesse Idlout

PASSED

Review of Coalition Letter to Standing Committee and DEA concerns

The Coalition Executive reviewed the 'Comments on Bill 21' which we had prepared for the Standing Committee on Bill 21. Feeling that we would not be able to have all the changes that we requested approved, we arranged the comments into three groups: Most Important; Less Important; Least Important.

We did not have time to complete the review, so we will finish it this afternoon, after our meeting with NTI.

Lunch Break: 12:00 p.m.

NTI Meeting – Held in the President's Boardroom at the NTI Offices - began 2:08

In Attendance: Jeeteeta Merkosak; Simon Kuliktana; Lori Idlout; Johnny Kootook; Jesse Idlout; Alice Ladner; Navarana Beveridge (NTI); Natan Ovide (NTI)

Navarana opened the meeting by stating that NTI wants Inuit Language and Culture to be the foundation of Education. The purpose of the NTI report on education (Saqqiqpuq) was to generate discussion; to look at the situation; and to make changes. Navarana stated that the editorial comment on this document in the Nunatsiaq News was extremely misleading and it

is important that the Coalition read the report to realize that. Each member of the Coalition was given a copy of the Saqqiqpuq Report to read.

Navarana also stated that NTI is viewed as opposition by the Department of Education although they do not want to be seen that way.

Lori Idlout commented that the Coalition would like to work out a partnership with NTI.

NTI believes that Bill 21 is weaker than any other province's or territory's Education Act concerning Inclusive Education. Natan suggested the Coalition look at what the members of the Standing Committee are focusing on in the Legislative Assembly.

Lori stated that everyone needs to talk about what is meant by 'quality of education' to ensure everyone has the same understanding.

Jesse stated that there may be up to 200 hearing impaired people in Nunavut and that there is no material for deaf and/or blind students. CLEY is considering preparing Inuktitut Sign Language material, but it will take many years to complete.

NTI has four points that they feel are the most important in the Education Act: Language of Instruction; Local Control; Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit; and Inclusive Schooling.

Meeting ended: 3:20 p.m.