



**Summary of Meetings**  
**October 14 – 16, 2014**  
**Iqaluit, Nunavut**

**Welcome Remarks & CNDEA Update – Chairperson, Willie Nakoolak**

We have most of the communities attending the AGM. Some communities stated that they did not get adequate time to attend, this may be due to communication problem: new DEA staff, new email, etc. Some delegates attended replacing their Chairperson or Vice Chairperson who were not able to come. We do have quorum to start the meetings. In brief: Our role is to work with DEAs across Nunavut in identifying common issues that need to be addressed in our education system. We take these issues to the Minister of Education, Paul Quassa, and our Coalition Director, Nikki Eegeesiak works with Department of Education staff, on improving the quality of education in our schools.

The Chairperson reported on board work and member training update DEAs also asked that the Coalition increase its visibility in other regions and communities and we did that by having DEA meetings in Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, Arviat, Whale Cover, Chesterfield Inlet, Hall Beach, Pond Inlet. Plans are in place to travel to other communities.

Over the past few years we have undertaken a number of education projects on behalf of DEAs. For example,

- The Coalition completed research on the impact of the new Education Act on DEAs, including how this was affecting DEA budgets.
- The Coalition also worked with the University of PEI and the Government of Nunavut, Department of Education on 3 short documentaries about issues in Nunavut education.
- We have also developed training materials for DEAs – 3 modules that Nikki delivers when she visits communities on board governance.
- We have also spent a great deal of time gathering together DEA issues and presenting them to the Department of Education.

We have invited the Vice-Chairperson of Special Committee on Education Act Review to provide all of us with an update on the upcoming review of the Education Act.

When the Education Act came into force in 2009, there was a clause in the Act that required the Act to be reviewed every 5 years. We have reached the 5 year point.

In the year ahead, the Coalition will be working very hard at ensuring that DEAs are able to contribute your views on education to this review process.

We will be talking about the 5 year review at this week's AGM and in the coming weeks we will be sending out a survey to DEAs asking your opinion on how this legislation is working in your community and with your DEA.

### **Housekeeping & Review of Schedule – Executive Director, Nikki Egeesiak**

Nikki went through the housekeeping sheet, the 3 day schedule including the AGM and DEA/Principals Conference.

### **Review & Update on DEA Priorities from 2013 AGM – Executive Director**

#### **Training:**

DEA members have received the ***DEA Aulatinig/Board Governance and Laws, Policies & Programs***. Many DEA and community members were pleased to hear about their authority, accountability and advocacy role. DEAs generally felt more knowledgeable in their roles and responsibilities.

For more information, we encourage you to review and share the training information with your DEA members. Plans were in place to deliver School Plans at this session. Unfortunately, the materials were not ready.

#### **CNDEA Goals & Objectives from 2012**

Nikki presented the 4 goals and objectives and stated that the work the Coalition has done from them will be shared at this weeks AGM.

#### **Workshop – CNDEA Operations Research – Ron Ryan**

Ron started off giving a brief history of the research: DEAs have been saying they don't have adequate tools, resources including funding to effectively do their duties and responsibilities under the Education Act so the Coalition took on this research. Department of Education responded to the research stating that there were discrepancies.

In brief, the members came up with 5 categories from the workshop on how DEAs can advocate for more resources and they are, financial, training, human resources, communications, and roles and responsibilities. Please see ***Appendix 1*** for a full list.

#### **Working with local resources – Chairperson DEA Rankin Inlet, Stan Anderson**

Stan presented the benefits of using local book keepers; they get timely financial statements, audits and local hires are faster and cheaper. Stan gave a sample template for the members to use as a guide for them to consider in their communities. The accountant/bookkeeper they use has a flash drive with simply accounting program and has the capacity to print reports like a Income statement. The Rankin Inlet DEA knows where the finances are, if we are going over or under budget. This is a good way to keep corporate memory in case there are staff or DEA member changes, etc.

Stan further stated that he realizes it's a challenge in the smaller communities, the members may want to see if there are any individuals like a teacher, principal, local finance worker to do accounting work, look around you are the client and contractor. If there is, you can offer a contract. Audits are a legal entity, he further stated that as a DEA Director, you can be sued for audits that are mispent, DEA has the authority to choose who we want to do as bookkeepers.

He further stated if you are in trouble (deficit situation and management letter from the auditor), please show that you have done your best to avoid deficit, misuse of funds, etc.

**Comments/Questions:**

Members asked about types of records produced from simply accounting, income tax payments, number of years they have the book keeper and signing authority. Stan said they are happy with the reports they receive, the book keeper pays the Canada Revenue Agency, they have had the contract in place for 11 years, and it is up to the DEA who has signing authority.

**DEA Issues/Concerns:**

In brief:

**Repulse Bay** – urgently needs a new school, they have no space left, storage is a issue, lack of adequate staff housing, office manager only works part time and she needs more training, elections is coming up so if any new DEA members are elected, they need to be trained as well. She further stated we (the DEAs) have authority it is because ignorance we may not be applying this and we have to be more confident to do the work. We have written to the Minister and all they say is we will check into it, Principal take pictures of the school and bring it to the conference and show photos.

**Arctic Bay** - High school is over crowded, class size is increasing, and asked if we can accept pre-schooler's? One of the members stated that yes, the DEAs/schools can accept pre-schoolers.

**Cambridge Bay** – the renovations and maintenance of schools takes too long

**Igloolik** – operations and administrative budget is too small for the office manager position and to hold monthly meetings which caused a deficit (and just found out in June), it took 10 years since we applied for a new school and we are finally getting plans in place to start but, we also have to state and prove that it was too small.

**Clyde River:** has similar problems, our community has been growing and expanding so the students and staff has to walk from far to reach the school, finally getting proper housing, we need a new gymnasium, wants to get rid of the new teacher because even the other teachers are complaining about him, the school was once nice but it is not maintained properly, it is deteriorating, mold forming.

**Iqaluit** – needs more students with special needs as we have the group home for children with disabilities. French language programming is being phased out, unfortunately the DEA was the last to know, the department didn't even contact us.

**Pond Inlet** – Office Manager is only part time with no benefits like pension, medical insurance, etc. social passing is a big issue, the DEAs need to be trained properly, we requested for QSO help us open a daycare so young parents could maybe come back to school and all they said was it wouldn't run well.

**Arctic Bay**- We have also been trying to work with the Principal and QSO to get rid of a teacher because the DEA received complaint letters about him. They have no connection to the community, students, teachers, etc. QSO has said they would look into the matter right away but they haven't yet. It is humiliating as a DEA member that we can not get answers or act on this.

A member stated that he used to work with QSO. Principals contracts are usually 3 year if they pass the 1<sup>st</sup> year, after 3 years, they can re-new the contract with the blessing of the DEA.

**Kimmirut:** The DEAs are involved with Principals performance review.

**Kugluktuk** urgently needs a full time special needs assistant, student/teacher ratio is no good, we urgently need Inuinnaqtun instructors, the school is hiring Inuinnaqtun teachers with no training or education.

**Rankin Inlet** - lack of computer technician in the school, bussing is a problem along with vandalism in the schools.

**Interactive & Group Discussion** – The members were put into groups, discussed, brainstormed the state of the quality of education used the topic: ***When students graduate, they will be able to" be:***

- Culturally and traditionally grounded (the students are learning about trees when they should be learning about snow, etc.)
- Taught Inuit worldview and attitudes to survive on the land with good land skills and basic survival skills as well as in the new world
- Fully bilingual and function verbally and written in English, Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun)
- Academic curriculum credentials in par with the rest of Canada and ready to pursue higher education – college/university/trades/vocational opportunities and have accreditation assessment to grade 12 get 100 credits in core subjects: Math, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies, etc.
- Prepared to pursue a life/career/education after grade 12 including work readiness program and life skills evolved
- Life, parenting, career planning value on his/her own life and others – respectful of parents, elders and roles of man and woman

The members further stated that it is important for:

- Better resources sharing
- Fully supported by DEA, parents and community
- Trained to be role model – lead by example
- Knowledge of background, history and knowledge of rights and responsibilities
- Objectives to be coordinated and implemented including the activities for our staff
- IQ put in to programs

## Day 2 – Sunday

### In-Camera

There was a in-camera session on Social Passing, a draft resolution along with recommendation to the Government of Nunavut, Department of Education on this item is later in the report.

### Presenter – Assistant Deputy Minister of Education, David Lloyd

Before the ADM did his remarks, Joe, the Chairperson stated that the Coalition invited the Minister of Education to our AGM to discuss the Departments long term plans and the review of the Nunavut Education Act. Joe stated that we understand you will present the departments **broad plans** for Student Achievement.

Joe advised him that the members held a workshop on the **Operations Research** the department responded to in March of this year and further stated that the members worked hard yesterday and we share with you today a list of the members key findings and priorities from the workshop. (Appendix # 1) He further stated that we hope the department and the Minister of Education continue dialogue with DEAs and the Coalition.

David Lloyd gave a verbal presentation. In brief, he stated that: the department holds Principals meetings, wants to work with DEAs in a productive way, directly.

The Department of Education mandate is to improve client service area in: kindergarten to Grade 12, adult and family services, accounting framework, operation procedures, student assessment initiatives, safe schools, anti-bullying, academic benchmark, attendance, parental engagement, bilingual education, inform DEAs of school programs, full high school program, PASS – which is high school equivalency through Nunavut Arctic College, NTEP, inclusive education policy, development of regulations of the Education Act, education leadership programs, consultation process, improve and work to increase specific programs; staff capacity, staff housing, better ways to share information and consultation, informally; educate parent roles and responsibilities on rights to engage with schools. Unfortunately, development coordinator positions are vacant, training – there needs to be a better support system for the long term plan to work with Municipal Training Organization and provide distance education. DEA funding Formula is a

priority of the new government coming, but, there is no money to increase operation costs. The new government will also be doing the Education Act Review, the DEAs will be involved in it,

### **Comments/Questions from members**

A member stated that DEA discussion are so passionate about education i.e. DEA held a session on quality of education yesterday and discussed issues and concerns: office space – part time office managers has more duties and responsibilities and are also sitting at the reception area so they are playing school secretary role not DEA, they are taken over by the Principal, and they don't get adequate pay and benefits, there should be student assessment done in each community, low quality of education curriculum, schools need adequate facilities and personnel, the DEAs plan and prepare for the multiple school program but find out at the last minute that it is delayed another year, no classes in physics, chemistry, everyday realities, not enough teaching positions, Some communities stated their schools are not maintained and getting too small so it is affecting the delivery of education.

They feel they do not have the guidance or support from Regional School Operations and the department because they don't follow up on inquiries, questions, and general operation procedures. A member stated from last years AGM, the department was going to send a notice to all DEAs that they can hire and contract their own book keepers and to remind the RSOs that they have to respect DEAs but, the members haven't seen any follow-up on items like this that are promised to be done. This is critical in working and communicating together.

Some DEAs are finding out only this year they are apparently in a deficit situation from the past several years audit so they don't have a adequate budget in place for this year. The DEAs need help from the department.

David, the multiple school options is not mandated yet, long term vision, he will push forward as ADM, the department is planning on developing: a standardized student assessment form, aggressive campaign on NTEP, education leadership program, work with the Arctic College on Early Childhood, language of instruction there are not enough people to fill the jobs, capital planning on new or renovations of schools, day cares centres. Etc. Yes, there are a lot of challenges. He will follow-up on these items.

### **Day 3 – Monday**

#### **Chair, National Inuit Education Strategy - Mary Simon**

Joe welcomed Mary and stated at last years AGM, the members asked if the Coalition could join the National Committee. We were pleased the coalition joined the Mobilizing Committee. Before Ms. Simon began her presentation, Joe updated her on what the members have done the last couple of days. The members held an information session on **Social Passing**. This continues to be a serious concern. We request that ITK continue to recognize this from Nunavut. The members did a session on their ideas on

**“quality of education”**. We feel it is critical that Inuit Teacher Recruitment and retention for bilingual education is education key to social and economic advancement of Nunavutmiut. The Inuit teachers are at retiring and the Coalition will be urging the Department of Education to launch an extensive campaign to recruit into a teaching profession. We may be advising ITK to include this in your campaigns. A summary of the meetings will be shared with ITK.

Ms. Simon stated there have been a number of new developments since last October including three of their priorities, **Mobilizing Parents**, **Measuring Success in Education**, and the feasibility of a **Standardized Writing System**. She presented the goal of the campaigns and what work has been done. There are 2 funded positions each year to coordinate the 4 priority initiatives mentioned above. ITK relies on external funding from various organizations and agencies for these initiatives.

**Mobilizing Parents** The goal of the campaign is to engage parents in improving attendance, and strengthen the level of home support for student success in school; they launched the planned introduction of this National Campaign in February in various Canadian northern communities through a series of speaking engagements, meeting with various leaders, teachers and administrators. Depending on the success of fund-raising efforts, the campaign will include 5 components: leaders roundtables in each region, the collection and development of parent engagement programs and learning resources for Inuit, the publication of a series of ‘Profiles in Success’ of families whose children have succeeded in school, a parent engagement pilot project in a specific community, and advertising and promotion in support of the campaign. ITK continues to work with organizations and agencies in its **Parental Mobilization Working Group**. Nikki Egeesiak is part of this working group from the Coalition.

**Measuring Success in Education** – ITK held a Inuit Education forum and consulted with various Inuit and non-Inuit education researchers and released a report. The report outlines principles and research priorities in Inuit education established by delegates to the Forum. From the forum, a request for a call for two research proposals has been submitted to ArcticNet for consideration, the two research proposals will focus on two priority topics in Inuit education: Increasing our understanding of grade transitions (i.e., Grades 7 to 8, Grade 10 to 11/ Secondary 1, 2 in Nunavik) and specifically why students are leaving school at these transitions, and Measuring Success: An examination of existing Inuit-specific indicators, gaps and recommended measures to close gaps. In addition, a proposal has been sent to ArcticNet for the Amaujaq Center to lead a plenary session and roundtable discussion on research in Inuit Education at the ArcticNet Annual Scientific Meeting scheduled for December 2013 in Halifax.

**Standardized Writing System** This initiative is being led by the Atausiq Inuktut Titirausiq Task Group made up of language specialists from each region and coordinated out of Amaujaq Centre. The Nunavut representatives on the Task Group are Jeannie Arreak-Kullualik from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Jaypeetee Arnakak from Inuit UqausinginnikTaiguusiliuqtiit. We are in the research phase that includes a comparative analysis of the writing systems in each region.

**Funding and the Arctic Inspiration Prize.** Ms. Simon thanked the Coalition for nominating the work of the Amaujaq National Centre for Inuit Education for the Arctic Inspiration Prize.

The members requested information on the Measuring Success in Education. Please see Appendix 2.

### **Comments/Questions**

A member asked if the planned writing system was going to come up with one system or is it new ideas and how will this be applied in schools? Mary stated that this works in Greenland, it is a research stages and will determine what steps will be taken.

In summary, the member also stated that its good that a national organization is doing campaigns and receiving funding to do its work but, the DEAs are struggling with doing their own work; trying to get parents involved, encouraging students to stay in school, work with Principals, schools, etc. The DEAs only get operations funding, no funding for other initiatives that we already try to do in the communities; we don't have specialist to do campaigns, research, policy writers, to do a good job document information. We do want to do the work, we don't have the funding or resources, further the DEAs have never been able to access or complete goals to explain or finish our work. The DEAs write letters for more funding or resources, i.e. anti-bullying campaigns, more Inuktitut language instruction and resources in schools, suicide prevention training, high drop-out rates, and graduates can't get jobs because of social passing. The information you are sharing is good for a national campaign but, the DEAs can only volunteer for so long to try and do some of the initiatives you mentioned. The DEAs loose creditability because of this especially social passing. It is a reality that parents are not encouraging their kids to stay in school, we need a partnership, be part of the root, we urgently need assistance.

Mary:

In summary, statistics show that graduates can't get jobs because of: social passing, absenteeism, high drop-out rate, quality of the curriculum. Parents should be told if the students are in critical stage in these areas. The DEAs or community can change policies and other factors that why the student is not going to school and standardized. Perhaps the DEAs or communities can ask why they are not receiving funding past grade 12. The Territorial Government is given funding from grade kindergarten to grade 12. The Federal Government only recognizes Indians and not Inuit to further fund education. That is why we are here to hear from Nunavut DEAs.

The Kugluktuk member stated their Inuinnaqtun language is dying so she invited Mary Simon to visit and present to the DEA and community.

Executive Director – Nikki Eegeesiak

You mentioned in your presentation that ITK is doing research on measuring success in education. The members held a session on "quality of education". This was coming from



DEAs and mostly Inuit. The coalition will be send the information to ITK. Can ITK support the Coalition that social passing is happening?

Mary: will bring this up with the President of ITK for consideration.

**Annual General Meeting in brief:**

- The 2011/2012 AGM Minutes were approved,
- Chairman's Report was approved.
- 2011/2012 Audited Financial Statements were approved.

**Election and Appointment – Executive Director**

A notice of election for the Chairperson and nomination for the Emeritus position was sent out to all the communities at least 3 times before this meeting.

There were no nominations for the ***Emeritus*** position. A notice of extension of this position will be sent out to the communities.

3 DEA members were nominated and accepted to run for the Chairperson position. 1 member each from each region, Willie Nakoolak was elected as Chairperson.

The members were also advised that there are some ***director term position's*** coming up. There will be another ***teleconference election*** coming up in ***January***, 2014 if your community will be affected. Please contact the office for more information and specifically, if your community should consider running for board position.

## **Motions – Executive Director**

### **2013 -01 Preserving Lapsed Funding for Education Purposes**

Where a DEA at the end of the school year has not expended all of the funds allocated in contracts, or DEAs together have not expended or been offered all of the funds approved by the Assembly in its Appropriations Act for that year, these funds should not be returned to general revenues, instead that lapsed or unused funds should be transferred to the Coalition, and the Coalition AGM each year should identify projects or objectives for funding with this money.

*This motion **was not passed**. It was referred back to the DEAs for discussions in each community. **Please let us know what your DEA thinks about this item.** It will be considered again next year at our AGM.*

### **2013-02 Suicide Intervention Training for School Staff**

The Nunavut DEAs urges the Department of Education as a matter of the highest priority to make suicide alertness and intervention training available to ALL staff in Nunavut schools who wish to take it, as soon as possible and on an on-going basis.

*This motion was passed. It was also passed in 2012 and 2011. We are still working to get it implemented.*

### **2013-03 Working with New Minister to set standards**

The Coalition requests that the newly appointed Minister of Education for the 4<sup>th</sup> Assembly meet with the Coalition within 6 months of his/her appointment to review with the Coalition Members S. 24 (4), S 25 (5), s. 74 (1) and s. 137 (1) (2) of the Education Act in order to develop a plan to involve DEAs in creating and approving these standards.

*This motion was passed. The Coalition has written to the Minister's Office and will follow up to tell you when we get this meeting. All the Education Act sections mentioned in this resolution are provided in English, French and Inuktitut in the meeting materials and we have emailed them to your DEA managers.*

### **2013-04 Nunavut Teachers Recruitment & Training**

That the Coalition of Nunavut DEAs, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and Regional Inuit Organizations advocate that the Government of Nunavut launch a campaign for Teacher Training Recruitment immediately and fund the high level education of these recruits, setting the target of graduating 50-100 Nunavut Teachers students per year for the next 5 (five) years during the mandate of the 4<sup>th</sup> Nunavut Legislative Assembly.

*This motion was passed. The Coalition has written to NTI, the RIAs and the Minister's Office and will follow up with news. The goal of this motion is to replace retiring Inuit teachers and to propose a huge new effort for Nunavut to bring qualified Inuit teachers into all the schools.*

### **2013-05 Rejection of the Program Directive on Student Placement, Promotion and Retention signed September 18, 2013**

a) Rejects the Program Directive of September 18, 2013

b) Confirms that this rejection of the directive is an effective instruction to Principals not to use the Directive because the DEA's reasoning is firmly based in Inuit societal values and the principals and concepts of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangi, and s. 114 (2) of the Nunavut Education Act provides that in such a case, the authority of the DEA shall prevail over that of the Minister

c) Supports any DEA who also adopts this resolution in instructing their principal to NOT implement this Directive.

*This motion was passed, but it is only effective if DEAs pass it, each for their own community. Please add this as a agenda item at your next DEA meeting. If this is passed in your community, please let us know so that we can keep track for everyone and be informed when we talk to the new Minister of Education.*

*The goal of this motion is to instruct principals to stop **social passing**, and to use the authority of the Education Act to make this legal.*