



Chairperson's Report

October 14, 2014

Ulaakut, welcome to the 2014 Annual General Meeting of the Coalition of Nunavut DEAs.

I want to begin by welcoming all of you to Iqaluit.

We have delegates from almost all of our communities - both Chairpersons of DEAs and members, and I am looking forward to hearing your thoughts and concerns about education in Nunavut.

As most of you know, the Coalition of Nunavut DEAs was formed in 2006 to help DEAs have a voice in the development of a new Education Act.

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.

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. (Please contact Nikki if you would like copies of these DVDs).
- We have also developed training materials for DEAs – 3 modules that Nikki delivers when she visits communities.
- We have also spent a great deal of time gathering together DEA issues and presenting them to the Department of Education.

Our Annual General Meeting is an important event each year. It's an opportunity to hear from other DEAs about their issues, and together we can discuss how to improve education in our communities.

Nikki has had a busy year.

Nikki travelled and met with DEAs in Arviat, Whale Cove, and Chesterfield Inlet, Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, Hall Beach and Pond Inlet and plans are in place for her to travel to more communities.

The Coalition recently moved our office here in Iqaluit and now share space with the Association of Nunavut Municipalities. If you have a chance this week or any other time you are in Iqaluit, drop in at the Qamutik Building (First Nations Bank building)

This week's agenda features a very important item that needs our attention.

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.

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

Please approach Nikki Egeesiak, or our Office Administrator, Loretta Koonoo 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.
Thank you.