



It was explained that the Coalition was a new group which had just been formed and recently received Society status. The members are parents who want the best for their children and they have formed a Coalition that all DEAs can go to for advocacy and information. They are volunteers who see a better future for their children and education.

### **Workshop:**

#### **'What Changes Could be made to make DEAs more effective in Governing our Schools?'**

The Workshop was facilitated by Lori Idlout. She broke it down into four areas:

1. What are we able to do at the moment? What is our authority?
2. What other responsibilities do we want?
3. How can we implement what we are envisioning?
4. How can we get where we want to go?

#### **The Chairs listed a number of responsibilities that the DEAs presently hold:**

- Make policies; • interview for school principals and teachers; • approve finances & budgets; • language and hiring; • school discipline; • school calendars; • approve culture programs; • hearing and addressing community concerns; • school non-attenders/truancy; • preparation of an Annual General Meeting Report; • applying for extra funding for additional programs in the schools; • Language of Instruction; • Aboriginal Headstart – preschool; • support for principals and encouraging them to work with the community.

#### **What other responsibilities do we want?**

- 🎵 Have a bilingual or unilingual elder employed full-time in the schools
- 🎵 Ability to hire and fire staff
- 🎵 Higher graduation rate
- 🎵 Same standard of instruction across Nunavut
- 🎵 Formal process allowing DEAs to participate in principals performance evaluations
- 🎵 Stronger voice in re-entry of students
- 🎵 DEAs treated equally by RSOs
- 🎵 Getting and keeping parents involved in their children's education – common messaging from all DEAs on the importance of parental involvement
- 🎵 Separating the Qikiqtani Region into north and south
- 🎵 Code of Ethics – DEAs help young people struggling to finish high school – more support instead of kicking them out
- 🎵 Implementation of Inuktitut curriculum and support of dialects
- 🎵 Roles of RSOs have to be clarified – DEAs should be dealing with Minister, not RSOs.
- 🎵 Closer relationship between DEAs and Nunavut Arctic College (NAC)
- 🎵 Getting more Inuk teachers into the high schools
- 🎵 Integrating modern education with cultural education
- 🎵 Traditional Inuit values taught in schools from early age
- 🎵 Chairs should be involved at graduation – Inuit land skills need to be practiced more to ensure they remain strong. DEAs could judge land skills as a way of measuring achievement through growth of students based on Inuk skills
- 🎵 DEAs ensure CGS held accountable for renovations to school facilities
- 🎵 Ensure that the DoE provides schools with the resources necessary for disabled students to attend schools
- 🎵 Ensure curriculum teaches difference between traditional Inuit and Western societies

#### **What are the barriers to implementing our vision?**

- 🎵 The RSOs – a lot of members don't know their responsibilities and authorities
- 🎵 People who can't speak Inuktitut don't really understand people with disabilities
- 🎵 Lack of funding to teach traditional skills
- 🎵 Existing Education Act
- 🎵 Not enough funding for Inuktitut language and disabled students

- ⦿ Teachers not aware of disabilities and how to work around them
- ⦿ When there is trouble with a teacher the DEAs are powerless to do anything about it
- ⦿ Trying to work with principals – if there is a staff change, we are back to square one
- ⦿ Trying to work with school secretary – same problem as with principal
- ⦿ Time – most members have jobs – only able to work on DEA issues at night
- ⦿ Staff at the school – unmotivated – don't have heart in their jobs
- ⦿ Union – principal can't discipline staff because of union – where does union come in?
- ⦿ Having to set-up Nunavut-wide language standards
- ⦿ Lack of teaching materials in Inuktitut and Inuinaktun
- ⦿ DEA members swamped with things to do – no time
- ⦿ Not enough pay for members
- ⦿ Don't know who is responsible for students of school age not attending school

### **How Can We Get Where We Want To Go?**

- ⦿ Better board training – community members still don't know what our role is
- ⦿ Development Officer isn't capable of answering regional DEAs questions
- ⦿ When there is a workshop could ask the Development Officer to do training
- ⦿ Development Officer doesn't visit regional DEAs – DEAs need better support and service
- ⦿ More funding to teach/support traditional skills
- ⦿ Not enough communication/networking between DEAs – some are overworked and don't know what authority they have
- ⦿ No continuity – DEA members should have staggered terms to ensure continuity
- ⦿ Better incentives for students to stay in school

### **REVIEW**

- ⦿ Rights and powers of parents should be presented clearly so parents know and understand what they are
- ⦿ Language Steering Committee needs to look at other dialects, especially Natsilik – if there are going to be dialects, need to include everyone – would need an extra resource person – the problem is lack of financing. Hearing disabled/mute students are taught American Sign Language- what can be developed for them to be taught in Inuktitut?
- ⦿ Suspensions and expulsions are not constructive – Years ago there were no suspensions. Why are kids suspended – are the teachers too busy or too uninterested to do something? There needs to be restorative measures inclusive of elders. If students are suspended for a long time, they don't come back. Give in-school suspensions and have the counselors work with the students.
- ⦿ What careers are we offering our young students today? Just telling them they have to go to school is no incentive. We have to find out what the students' interests are, what they want to do in the future. Students graduate from Grade 12, but if go for post-secondary education they come home and give up. We have to give them goals.
- ⦿ The DEAs Roles need to be defined – don't feel we are all on the same page
- ⦿ There is no follow-up from the RSOs – we submit motions or ideas to them but they don't go anywhere – we need to work with the RSOs

### **Review of Coalition of Nunavut DEA By-Laws**

In the review of the by-laws, the following changes were requested:

1. Terms of admission should include the Commission Scolaire Francophone du Nunavut, and the Nunavut Disabilities Society.
2. The membership fee is too high. It should be less than \$500.00
3. Do not think DEAs should be expelled from membership because of non-payment of fees

4. Members should not be expelled
5. Elections conducted by show of hands
6. Nunavut Disabilities Society should have full membership rights
7. Iqaluit should not have a member in addition to Qikiqtani South
8. Kitikmeot should be divided into two regions: East and West
9. The by-laws may be amended by the directors – must be approved at following AGM
10. The by-laws may be amended at the AGM by a simple majority of members

**Meeting finished at 4:40 p.m.**

**DAY TWO – WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2007**

**Meeting reconvened by Jeeteetah Merkosak at 9:10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 16, 2007**

**Opening prayer – Josie Enuaraq**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

#### **Approval of Amended By-Laws**

The changes to the By-Laws suggested on May 15, 2007 were incorporated into the Coalition By-Laws and a copy was passed out to all DEA members. The new By-Laws were read aloud and accepted by all DEA members.

**Motion # 16-05-07-01 that the Coalition of DEA By-Laws be approved as amended.**

**Moved by:** Simon Kuliktana

**Seconded by:** Jacob Jaypoody

**PASSED**

#### **President's Report**

Jeeteetah Merkosak, Chair of the Coalition of Nunavut DEAs, read the Presidents Report (attached).

**Motion # 16-05-07-02 that the Presidents Report be approved.**

**Moved by:** Simon Kuliktana

**Seconded by:** Jack Ameralik

**PASSED**

#### **Financial Report**

Alice Ladner, Administrator of the Coalition of Nunavut DEAs, presented the Financial Report to the members. (attached)

**Motion # 16-05-07-03 that the Financial Report be approved.**

**Moved by:** Simon Kuliktana

**Seconded by:** Martha Main

**PASSED**

#### **Review of Election Procedures**

John Bainbridge, our legal representative, was supposed to do a review of the election procedures, but he was unable to attend the meeting today. Jeeteetah Merkosak and Alice Ladner led a discussion on the election of new members. Three new members needed to be elected to replace members who had resigned. Some of the regions did not have a representative from all their DEAs present. It was decided that they would contact their DEAs over lunch for suggestions on who they would like to nominate, and the voting would take place after lunch.

### **NTI PRESENTATION**

#### ***Inuit Language Protection Act and Nunavut Education Act***

Navarana Beveridge of NTI spoke to the DEA Chairs about their concerns over the proposed Inuit Language Protection Act.

## LETIA – START HERE

The Coalition asked about the disputes NTI is involved in with the DoE. Navarana stated that even though they don't always get along, they still work with the Government of Nunavut (GN) and Louis Tapardjuk will be meeting with the GN in June.

The Inuit Protections Act states that the Inuit language will be protected and Inuktitut would be the working language. GN has recognized Inuktitut as the working language, but that is as far as it has gone. Too many schools only go to Grade 3 with Inuktitut, and they won't have Inuktitut up to Grade 12 until 2019 – NTI feels wants a shorter time period.

Part of their role is to come up with standardization or decide to work with all dialects. NTI would like to see the Act stronger than it is presented. Business signs should be in Inuktitut; if people want to speak Inuktitut – in stores, hotels, etc. – the service should be there; the hospital should hire people who speak good Inuktitut to help with translating for patients. NTI wants the authorities and powers to be strong under the Act and believe it has to be on paper – rules written down – to ensure Inuktitut is properly protected. GN plans to release the Act in June, but they are moving too fast, more community consultation and thought is needed.

The Coalition asked what would happen next if GN doesn't approve the Language Act. It was also mentioned that if Inuit students want to have a career, they must be able to function in English or they will not be eligible for the career they have chosen – they would quit and give up.

NTI stated that Inuktitut needs to be increased in schools. Many careers require English, but other areas, like courses offered at Nunavut Arctic College, require more use of Inuktitut.

NTI's only objections to the Act are the 2019 date for Grade 12 Inuktitut (too long) and the implementation date needs to be extended so more ground work can be done to ensure protection of the language.

Navarana talked about the language in Greenland. There is one standardized language used there. This is a possibility for Nunavut, having a standardized language in schools, but using own dialect in the communities.

One of the Coalition members agreed, stating that standardized Inuktitut was needed in written material as well.

NTI's position on education is to have boards returned or have another at regional and territorial regions and to keep the Inuktitut language strong.

## ELECTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Nominations:

East Kitikmeot – Johnny Kootook – Taloyoak

**Motion # 16-05-07-04 that** Johnny Kootook be elected to the Coalition Executive.

**Moved by:** Naimee Kilabuk-Bourassa

**Seconded by:** Oolateeta Iqaluk

**PASSED**

West Kitikmeot – Simon Kuliktana – Kugluktuk

**Motion # 16-05-07-05 that** Simon Kuliktana be elected to the Coalition Executive.

**Moved by:** Bill Fraser

**Seconded by:** Jacob Jaypoody

**PASSED**

Member at large – Jake Ikeperiar – Hall Beach

**Motion # 16-05-07-06 that** Jake Ikeperiar be elected to the Coalition Executive.

**Moved by:** Lucassi Ivvalu

**Seconded by:** Simon Kuliktana

**PASSED**

**Motion # 16-05-07-07 that** the elections be concluded.

**Moved by:** Simon Kuliktana

**Seconded by:** Jacob Jaypoody

**PASSED**

## **IN CAMERA SESSION**

The Nunavut DEA members held a discussion

## **PRIORITIES FOR THE COALITION IN THE COMING YEAR**

The Coalition, under direction of the DEAs, will focus on the following points in the coming year 2007/2008:

- Revise and improve the By-laws
- Newsletter to DEAs, can share ideas
- Set up an office space and staff
- Seek permanent funding
- Honoraria for board members
- Board training for the coalition
- Re-visit the fee amount for becoming a member
- Have regular ongoing communication with the minister and ask for continuing funding for AGMs
- Lobbying to communities/MLA's
- Work with the regional school operations and see if the 3 RSOs can work at the same level.

## **DAY THREE – THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2007**

**Meeting reconvened by Jeeteetah Merkosak at 9:05 a.m.**

**Opening prayer – Josie Enuaraq**

Minister Picco gave a short speech to the Coalition.

Deputy Minister, Kathy Okpik, continued the meeting, answering questions and explaining the DoE's position.

She explained that the Education Act Steering Committee has not met since last year as the Department of Education (DoE) is working at resolving two disputes with the steering committee:

NTI is requesting the return of school boards and DoE says boards will not be brought back.

They are slowly reaching a consensus, but if cannot agree then the Premier, NTI and Intergovernmental Affairs will meet together to come to an agreement.

The second issue is Language of Instruction (LOI) and Language Legislation 2004 – The government introduced two languages that would be used – English and French, with Inuktitut eventually being brought back. NTI is requesting 100% Inuktitut from kindergarten to Grade 12. The GN is going to the communities to consult on how the LOI should be implemented in the schools. Everyone expects different things from the schools. It is possible they would set up two streams – one would be Language and Culture; the other would be College and University.

### **Comments on the Coalition of Nunavut DEAs**

The DoE would like to create a body similar to DEAs now, but with more roles and responsibilities. This Association would have 5 members from the communities. If 5 is not enough, could be 7 or 8. They would be elected by the 27 DEAs across the Territory. It would have its own funding with a Director and an assistant. If the staff is not large enough, the DEAs would have a say in that.

The DEA development officers would set a schedule for training DEAs. Qikiqtani School Operations, Kitikmeot School Operations, and Kivalliq School Operations would continue to meet and work amongst themselves. They would communicate with the DEAs to discuss community concerns.

There would be one annual General Meeting. The Coalition Executive and DoE would have another meeting to discuss parts of the Education Act that need discussion or revision.

Everyone's roles are not clearly defined – Regional School Operations (RSOs), Minister, DEAs – all will be defined much more clearly. DoE wants to streamline the process – present legislation is vague about the Roles and Responsibilities. What would the primary goals of the DEA Association be?

The Coalition stated it was concerned about being placed under the power of the DoE. If the Coalition made motions or resolutions and passed them on to other authorities, we could get a response saying we can't implement it.

Kathy Okpik stated that the Coalition would not be reporting to DoE. It would negotiate with DoE, but would not report to anyone in DoE. DoE would like to define the roles of parents, staff, and DEAs.

The Coalition asked about working with the RSOs. The DEAs often don't get much help or response from the RSOs. Wanted to know what was proposed by DoE to make the RSOs work more closely and strongly with the DEAs. Asked about having functions similar to former Divisional Boards.

Kathy said the communities can't have Boards back or board-like functions. The DoE wants to have an Association that would have a working relationship with DoE.

The Coalition stated that legally there is a Board in Nunavut – the Francophone Association is a board. Kathy stated that this board is implemented because it is in the Charter of Rights and Freedom.

The Coalition asked why Boards are not wanted by DoE. The Steering Committee meetings are what started the Coalition. We would like to forge ahead with that structure. Why doesn't GN want Board structure, why can't DoE delegate the Coalition to do this – may not need

new ideas, just change them a bit.

Kathy stated that boards were too expensive. Also stated that without Boards the DEAs had a direct line to the Minister whereas with Boards, the DEAs had to go through them to get to the Minister. The Boards were ended because they had no linkages, each Board had its own policy and operated individually. GN wants structure across Nunavut rather than everyone doing things differently. She stated that with the Inuktitut courses they wanted to ensure that the content was compatible with IQ, that the same structure was used in all regions so everyone is on the same page.

Kathy asked what name we wanted. She stated that DoE agree with some form of an Association – they don't want to call it something we don't want – if everyone agrees to the Coalition, they could find out legally where we stand. She asked if we wanted a Divisional Board structure in place in this partnership – DoE and Coalition.

The Coalition stated they would rather accept the structure that is in place. A member mentioned that the Coalition members haven't had time to read the document and they are being asked to agree with it. The Coalition should go back to the parents and tell them what is happening.

Kathy stated that this document had been given to the Coalition and DoE thought it would be passed on to the DEAs. The Coalition has to come up with some structure – if DoE sends something to the Coalition, it should be passed on to the DEAs.

The Coalition stated that presently there is only a volunteer staff and it is difficult to do everything we would like to do. Suggested sending the documents to each DEA until we have been able to have full-time staff.

The Coalition stated they wanted to have the power to hire and fire school staff. This is a problem for DoE, NTA, and NEU. Everyone needs to be on the same page. Members also asked if the Education Act is going to have more IQ – and it is genuine – why isn't there an IQ specialist on staff.

Kathy stated that there is no doubt that IQ will be the basis for Inuit Culture. They are working on how to incorporate Inuit courses with the present western courses like Math and Science. DoE want to hold discussions with Inuit staff and parents.

A Coalition member stated that things slow down in the spring and people would prefer issues not be raised in the spring. Kathy stated that there was not a lot of time left. Everything has to be done by the end of June.

The Coalition members agreed, but asked why they can't talk to our government. We have more strength, but still can't talk to GN. They thought it sounded like DoE wanted to push the Act through legislation by the fall. There is a possibility of teleconferences. The Coalition can consult with all DEAs, the regions have learned to work together. The Coalition would like to have the best possible solution.

The Coalition also asked about their powers. Will it be like NAM which only consults? The Coalition thought it may need legal advice. Also, that not enough funding was set aside for students with disabilities.

Kathy suggested the Coalition discuss these issues with the Chair. She stated that inclusive schooling is a provision for all people that have barriers – the Education Act has provisions in it for disabled students.



A Coalition member stated that with the Coalition there is a Nunavut-wide voice. The Coalition needs to be heavily involved in the Education Act and doesn't want barriers from DoE or NTI.

Kathy stated that she didn't think NTI would agree with him.

Navarana said the DEAs could bring back boards or have any other type of organization, but DEAs have to be empowered. They should have the ability to do things like: hire/fire; set curriculum; set budget. We're not trying to be an obstacle, but a support for DEAs.

Kathy said if NTI would not object to the Department having teleconference meetings with the Coalition, they would arrange the meetings now.

The Coalition stated that it was waiting to see the Draft Education Bill. It has been discussed a lot, and we have heard DoE's responses. We need to see the Bill.

Kathy asked what board responsibilities the Coalition wanted and what type of structure they wanted.

It was decided that the DEAs would present their views to the Coalition, and the Coalition executive would hold a teleconference with DoE.

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Date

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Chairperson

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Date

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Office Administrator