

For Immediate Release

Coalition of Nunavut DEAs seeks dramatic re-structure for Education Act

September 20, 2019: “We are beyond disappointed with Bill 25” stated Jedidah Merkosak Coalition Chair, “Bill 25 is basically a carbon copy of Bill 37, and more people wrote to the Assembly opposing Bill 37 than any legislation in the history of Nunavut.”

The Coalition of Nunavut DEAs has finalized its 2019 submission to the Standing Committee on Legislation on the current set of proposed Education Act amendments, pointing out that the extensive and expensive consultation months spent touring to all Nunavut communities have resulted in essentially no movement or change in what Minister Joanasié is presenting to the Assembly.

“Speaking for the whole board, we see a respectful and high quality Inuktitut education system as essential to the dream of Nunavut” said Merkosak, “and Bill 25 delivers a top-down cookie-cutter southern style bureaucracy, the very opposite of our vision. Twenty years of waiting and watch our children fail is more than long enough, there have to be some dramatic changes for Education in Nunavut.”

The Coalition’s submission is founded on 5 principles:

1. reject Bill 25 – it in no way improves education for Nunavummiut
2. take an Inuit rights-based approach to improving the Education Act
3. implement education structures for all Nunavummiut based on the much broader and simpler structures in Part 13 of the Education Act (2008) – the provisions which deal with the Commission scolaire francophone.
4. commit to the principle that Inuktitut and Inuit communities deserve the same respect and authority as francophone communities in Nunavut.
5. commit to the principle that Inuit ways of teaching deserve to be the foundation of the Nunavut education system.

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