



Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Rankin Inlet, Nunavut

October 18-20, 2016

Resolution#: RSA 16-10-12

Education Act Amendments

Moved by: Raymond Ningeocheak

Seconded by: Levi Barnabas

WHEREAS there is a large and unacceptable gap in education and employment between Nunavut and southern Canada, and closing that gap means addressing the crisis in education in Nunavut, where over 70% of Inuit students are not completing high school; and

WHEREAS a major factor in this educational crisis is the lack of Inuktitut language and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* in the mostly non-Inuit school system; and

WHEREAS as Inuit, we have the right to control our children's education, and to educate our children in Inuktitut and in accordance with *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, as recognized in the *Constitution Act, 1982* and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*; and

WHEREAS the Government of Nunavut:

- (i) has not fulfilled its obligation under Article 23 of the *Nunavut Agreement* to implement an Inuit Employment Plan with timetables for increasing Inuit educators to 85% in Nunavut schools,
- (ii) has not supported local control of education, but instead has centralized control of education in the Department of Education and in the Regional School Operations which report to the Department;
- (iii) has not adequately funded or trained District Education Authorities (DEAs) to deliver local control of education;
- (iv) has not adequately funded inclusive education;
- (v) has not created a school system centered in *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, and
- (vi) has not created curricula in Inuktitut for all school grades and subjects;

WHEREAS the Government of Nunavut now proposes to amend the 2008 *Education Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*:

- (i) to reduce Inuit rights to education in Inuktitut; and

- (ii) to reduce DEA local control over education, including control over language of instruction, and give even more authority to the Minister and the Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NTI's members call on all Members of the Nunavut Legislative Assembly to oppose the Government's proposed amendments, and hold the Government to account to implement the NTI proposals below; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members call on the Government of Nunavut:

- (1) to keep the *Education Act* and *Inuit Language Protection Act* as they are, and stop its plans to reduce Inuit rights to Inuktitut language of instruction, and Inuit local control over education;
- (2) implement a strong Inuit Employment Plan by December 2016, and make major new funding commitments for training and hiring Inuit teachers and Inuktitut language specialists;
- (3) require DOE's Regional School Operations to report to Inuit elected boards, instead of to the Minister;
- (4) properly train and fund DEAs to make them more effective in their responsibilities for local control of education;
- (5) stop the practice of social promotion, and make major new funding commitments for special needs students, including for data management and hiring of specialists to diagnose and implement supports for special needs students;
- (6) make *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* a core element of the curriculum in K through 12; and
- (7) create curricula in Inuktitut for all school grades and subjects.

In Favour: All

Against: None

Abstentions: None

Carried:

Defeated: