



Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Cambridge Bay, Nunavut

October 24-26, 2017

Resolution #: RSA-17-10-07

Article 23, Education and Language

Moved by: James Eetoolook

Seconded by: Stanley Anablak

WHEREAS the Inuit of Nunavut expected and believed that the promise of representative Inuit employment (approximately 85%) in the *Nunavut Agreement*, and the creation of the Government of Nunavut (GN) in 1999, would together result in an education system and government services delivered in accordance with the Inuit language and culture;

AND WHEREAS 24 years after the *Nunavut Agreement* was signed, Inuit employment in government in Nunavut still stands at only 18% of senior management, 27% of middle management, and about 50% overall;

AND WHEREAS neither the Government of Canada (GoC) nor the GN have delivered on their promise to produce and implement a full suite of Inuit Employment Plans (IEPs) and Pre-Employment Training Plans (PTPs) with the necessary detail and funding commitments to achieve 85% Inuit employment;

AND WHEREAS, although 97% of Nunavut's students are Inuit, Nunavut schools are still using an English language, Alberta-based curriculum, taught by 78% non-Inuit teachers recruited from the south, average attendance is at about 71% (amounting to three school years missed), and about 75% of Inuit students are reportedly not completing high school at all;

AND WHEREAS government services in Nunavut continue to be delivered primarily in the English language, creating an unfair and unacceptable situation, and, in some cases, safety and security issues;

AND WHEREAS Inuit language use in Nunavut is decreasing and is in danger of becoming a minority language in Nunavut within a short time;

AND WHEREAS as a result of public opposition, the GN's Legislative Assembly recently rejected Bill 37, which would have reduced Inuit rights to Inuktitut language of instruction education and local control over education;

AND WHEREAS NTI has written to the members of the Legislative Assembly to encourage the Government to introduce an Inuit Employment Act to implement Article 23 and provide redress for inequitable treatment of Inuit in employment;

AND WHEREAS as a result of the May 2015 Settlement Agreement with the GoC and the GN, there is a new Article 38 dispute resolution process in place which allows NTI to demand arbitration without government consent;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Members call on the GoC and the GN to immediately develop strong IEPs for all departments, with concrete Inuit employment targets and timelines that will demonstrate substantial and steady progress towards fully Inuit representative workforces (85%), supported by detailed training initiatives and major new funding commitments for all necessary training;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Members call on the GoC and the GN to make a major new funding commitment specifically for training and hiring Inuit educators, including a language specialist training initiative;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Members call on the GN Department of Education (EDU) to:

- (1) Identify, in conjunction with NTI, the numbers, locations and other details of teachers, language specialists and other Inuit educators to be trained and hired through a detailed and fully funded EDU IEP, and
- (2) based on such an IEP, develop a new Education Act timetable for Inuktitut Language of Instruction in the schools, at all levels;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Members call on the GN to develop and introduce a Nunavut Inuit Employment Act to implement Article 23 and provide redress for inequitable treatment of Inuit in employment;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT NTI take all necessary steps to ensure that Inuit rights to strong Inuit Employment Plans and Pre-Employment Training Plans under Article 23 of the Nunavut Agreement are met;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Members call on the Government of Canada to recognize Inuktitut as an official language within Nunavut and provide funding to Nunavut for bilingual services on an even playing field with language funding for bilingual services elsewhere in Canada.

In Favour: All

Against:

Abstentions:

Carried:

Defeated: