



Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Iqaluit, Nunavut

October 23-25, 2018

Resolution #: RSA 18-10-08

Education Act Review - 2018

Moved by: James Eetoolook

Seconded by: David Ningeongan

WHEREAS in 2017, the Fourth Legislative Assembly failed to pass Bill 37, *An Act to Amend the Education Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, due to the overwhelming opposition of the public, including Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., the Coalition of Nunavut District Education Authorities (CNDEA) and the District Education Authorities (DEAs); and

WHEREAS the Government of Nunavut (GN) has recently made public a legislative proposal for proposed amendments to the *Education Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, which are essentially the same as the proposals in Bill 37, which were rejected; and

WHEREAS since January 2018, NTI has been seeking a meaningful partnership with the GN to develop the new amendments to the *Education Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, consistent with Article 32 of the *Nunavut Agreement*; and

WHEREAS NTI has worked successfully and collaboratively with the GN in the past to co-develop legislation, including the *Nunavut Wildlife Act*, the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and the *Official Languages Act*, and such collaboration is now the standard for best practice in Nunavut; and

WHEREAS education and language are at the heart of Inuit cultural and social well-being, and self-determination, and Inuit have a right to participate under Article 32 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and to have our goals reflected in the legislation related to education and language; and

WHEREAS the Members strongly believe that making the necessary improvements to the education system requires amendments and initiatives that are developed in collaboration with NTI to meet the needs of our Inuit students; and

WHEREAS the Inuit of Nunavut wish to see essential changes to the education system in areas that are not adequately addressed in the current legislative proposal, including:

- embedding *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* meaningfully into the curriculum from Kindergarten through Grade 12,

- making Inuktitut the primary language of instruction, from early childhood education to Kindergarten to Grade 12,
- reinstating regional boards of education that have full authority on staffing, finances, curriculum development and school and educational programs,
- empowering and supporting the DEAs, and
- adequately funding and significantly improving the provision of inclusive education for all of Nunavut's special needs students.

WHEREAS the GN has imposed an artificial December deadline for completion of public consultation and development of a new bill without addressing the above concerns;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Members call on the GN to:

1. Revise its legislative proposal collaboratively with NTI and the CNDEA, in a way that is responsive to the concerns of NTI, the DEAs, and Inuit who participated in the public consultation;
2. Co-develop the legislative drafting instructions and amendments with NTI, as per the established best practice in Nunavut on other legislation; and
3. Extend the consultation deadline beyond December 2018 to allow for this collaboration to be successfully concluded.

In Favour: All

Against:

Abstentions:

Carried:

Defeated: