

Motion

Junior Kindergarten

WHEREAS the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) confirmed plans to introduce Junior Kindergarten in all 49 NWT schools in the fall of 2017;

AND WHEREAS the goal of the Junior Kindergarten program is to promote the development and school readiness of four-year olds with free programming;

AND WHEREAS the importance of early childhood development is a value shared by professional and licensed programs across the territory;

AND WHEREAS Early Development Instrument testing reveals the greatest need for readiness exists in our smallest communities and these communities often have the fewest resources for pre-schoolers;

AND WHEREAS the GNWT tabled a report in February that reviewed the first stage of implementation of Junior Kindergarten in 19 NWT schools;

AND WHEREAS this report recommended that expanded implementation of Junior Kindergarten must take into account community contexts, strengths, needs and the existence of quality early childhood learning programs in communities;

AND WHEREAS this report also recommends the Government develop a strategy in consultation with each community to address its unique early childhood learning needs;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment produce a plan to implement Junior Kindergarten in 2017-2018, along with a fully-costed budget for presentation to the Standing Committee on Social Development;

AND FURTHER, that the Department implement all the recommendations of the Junior Kindergarten review tabled in February;



Date of Notice: October 20, 2016
Date of Introduction: October 26, 2016
Disposition: Carried as amended
Carried: October 26, 2016

Moved by: Ms. Green
Seconded by: Mr. Blake
Ruled Out of Order:

AND FURTHERMORE, that in developing an implementation plan, the Department acknowledge that a one-size fits all approach to Junior Kindergarten is contrary to the report's recommendations;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Department tailor the introduction of Junior Kindergarten to each community, with a focus on providing the greatest need to improve school readiness;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Department accommodate existing community programs for four-year olds without jeopardizing their viability;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government provide a comprehensive response to this motion within 120 days.