

Inuvik East Three (E-3) School Project Documents

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NORTHWEST TERRITORIES HANSARD

October 12, 2005

Supplementary To Question 89-15(4): Helping Students With Special Needs

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the Minister works hard to increase funding in special needs, but the Minister has even admitted himself that he has an obligation. We have an obligation to students to provide support to those who need it, and obviously we are not meeting that. I am thinking that the only way we are going to know whether we are meeting them or not, we have to know what the needs are. I am telling you, Mr. Speaker, there are classrooms in our territory where there might be 50 percent of students who need special needs funding, and 10 percent, 15 percent, or eight percent is arbitrary. Will the Minister look into finding out exactly what the needs of special needs students are in the Territories within the next six months? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 89-15(4): Helping Students With Special Needs

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I meet twice a year with the chairs of the divisional educational councils. They tell me what the needs are in the classroom. We surveyed the teachers in the year 2000 to find out what the needs are in the classroom. I have already said to the Member today that we are going to do that this year. So five years after, we are updating the survey so that we will have an understanding of exactly what the needs are in the classroom. So, yes, we are working to make sure that our programming is designed to deal with the challenges that teachers face in the North. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Your final supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 89-15(4): Helping Students With Special Needs

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to get clarification from the Minister. He indicates that he talks to the chairs of school boards and such. I hope he is not saying that the school board chairs or any of the education professionals have been telling him that the extent of needs for special needs funding is no more than 15 percent. I hope he is not saying that. If he is looking into this question, will he make a commitment that he will live up to the obligation to provide support to students who need it and that he will provide support to every student who needs it once he finds out what the needs are within the next six months, not at the end of the school year? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 89-15(4): Helping Students With Special Needs

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not going to embark on a formal assessment process that would take millions of dollars to assess the special needs of every student. Teachers and educators are qualified to tell us what they need in their classroom to get the job done. That is what we are going to depend on. We have used that method of determining how we should support special needs and will continue to

do that. I am quite anxious, like the Member, to see us be able to better support the needs of students in the classroom. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

Question 90-15(4): Structural Problems At Samuel Hearne School

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today my questions are for the Minister of Public Works and Services. We have seen newspaper reports that Samuel Hearne was going to be open later in the month. I want to ask the Minister the question that is on everyone's mind in Inuvik: When will the school reopen so that teachers and parents can get on with their year? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 90-15(4): Structural Problems At Samuel Hearne School

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the plan for reopening of the Samuel Hearne Secondary High School is for about the middle of December, but our goal is to have the classes back in operation in the high school after the Christmas break. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

Supplementary To Question 90-15(4): Structural Problems At Samuel Hearne School

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said in my Member's statement, when foyers collapse and foundations fail, someone has to be held responsible. Would the Minister give parents, students and teachers some reassurance that their school will be safe when it reopens and indicate whether he has or plans to order an internal investigation to find out who is responsible and what needs to be done to prevent failures like this again? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Roland.

Further Return To Question 90-15(4): Structural Problems At Samuel Hearne School

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it has been identified quite some time ago that with the reduction scenarios that the previous governments had gone through and reduced expenditures in certain areas, and the area of the Capital Replacement Program was one of those areas that took a hit. If we did not bring that capital back up, we would indeed find ourselves in problems. The particular facility in Inuvik as well as the other school in Inuvik have been on the capital plan for quite some time and have been bumped for a number of years. As we know, the planning is proceeding with a replacement of SAMS and we are looking at the replacement of the high school, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I guess, ultimately, when it came down to making the decision on the closure of the high school, as I

told parents at the public meeting in Inuvik, I would rather be there apologizing for the fact that we were not able to use the facility for a school at this point. I would rather do that than trying to apologize for the loss of a loved one if we found ourselves in another situation. That is why we made the decision not to open that facility. Safety came first. We have been working around the clock, so to speak, to get the issues addressed with and dealt with on the facility itself so that we can have it open. If the facility opens sooner, we will look at trying to get the classes back into the high school.

On the issue of dealing with the Department of Public Works and Services and the work we do and the events around this facility, a seemingly ongoing venture on this facility, I am, as Minister, taking responsibility for that. The decision is made within my department, and I am taking the necessary steps to ensure that the right actions are taken in dealing with all the events that surrounded the decisions and the process that was used where we found ourselves with that facility. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Supplementary, Mr. McLeod. Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Question 91-15(4): Cancellation Of Housing Tender In Fort Rae

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my questions today to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. It gets back to the statement that I had made earlier. I haven't got an official response. It has been over three weeks since I have sent an inquiry to his department on what was the just cause for the cancellation of a contract to build two units in Rae. I would like to know why a small company located in my riding is being penalized. They put up the five percent bid bond, they followed all the rules, and they are left with nothing. I would like the Minister to answer what the just cause for the cancellation of that contract was. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Krutko.

Return To Question 91-15(4): Cancellation Of Housing Tender In Fort Rae

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there was a bid process which did take place. There was one bidder. But there was also another process that was in the works in regards to a negotiated contract from the community of Rae in regards to allowing them to do it through a negotiated contracting process. At the time, under the process for negotiated contracts, you needed the support of the local MLA. They did not have an MLA at the time the request came in. At the same time there was a change in government with the Tlicho Government in the community, and there was a transitional period that was taking place. Because the Tlicho agreement is now in law, we have to abide by that legislation. There are sections of those agreements which we have to consider through a contracting process, especially in regards to section 26 of the Tlicho agreement. Again, these processes have taken place. We have asked the parties to sit down and see if they can work out their differences. We had several meetings but,

again, they were unable to resolve it. So we had made an extra attempt to get the parties to try to work this through, but the proposal has gone forward. It has gone to Cabinet going through the negotiated contracting process.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

Supplementary To Question 91-15(4): Cancellation Of Housing Tender In Fort Rae

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to hear that response from the Minister. I guess I am to believe that now the Housing Corporation has only one company they can do business with in Rae. Am I to believe that? What happens to the public tendering process now that the Tlicho have their agreement in place? Is there a public tendering process in place that is fair and open to everybody, or is it just one company that we have to do business with at whatever the price is? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Krutko.

Further Return To Question 91-15(4): Cancellation Of Housing Tender In Fort Rae

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have a whole slate of processes that we can take. We can go sole source, we can go negotiated or public tender. The key component of what we are trying to do is build capacity to ensure that those dollars remain in the communities. You build capacity. You have tradespeople and the people that you need to carry out future projects. The biggest challenge we are facing in all of our small communities to date is we do not have tradespeople in those communities to carry out our activities at the Housing Corporation, and other businesses in regards to building high schools and public infrastructure, and we have to find a way to build that capacity. This is one way that we are doing it. I think, because of the opportunities that this allows, we have to look at those things.

Again, what we are seeing in regards to the Gwich'in area through their MOU, they are formulating partnerships with individual companies to come forward through joint ventures and proceed in regards to these tenders by way of negotiated contracts. It has happened in other areas but, again, people have to understand that we are under a different regime by way of the Tlicho land claim agreement. We have to acknowledge that and also accept that there is going to be change through this devolution process. So it is devolving. People have to understand that by working together. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

Supplementary To Question 91-15(4): Cancellation Of Housing Tender In Fort Rae

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can appreciate the Tlicho self-government and where they want to get in building capacity. I can understand. At the end of the day, the contract was cancelled. That was a legitimate contract/tender process that went out and was cancelled. I would like to ask the Minister what he plans on doing to rectify that situation.

alters the composition and tenure of persons serving on the Aurora College Board of Governors, including:

- reducing the number of persons selected from each region to serve on the board from two to one;
- reducing the term of student representatives on the board from three years to one year;
- requiring that additional persons who may be appointed to the board by the Minister have expertise that would contribute to Aurora College operations.

References to the Science Advisory Council have been replaced by references to the Research Advisory Council. Mr. Speaker, the bill also provides Aurora College with express authority to grant prescribed applied bachelor degrees. Inoperative provisions are also repealed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 17 has had second reading and stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

Bill 11: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2005-2006

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2005-2006, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 11 has had second reading and stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Minister's Statement 24-15(4), Sessional Statement; and Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2005-2006, with Mr. Ramsay in the chair.

ITEM 19: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): I call Committee of the Whole to order. We have two items before us today. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee wishes to consider Bill 11.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, committee. We will take a short break before we continue on with Bill 11.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): I would like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. Order, please. We are going to continue now with Bill 11. Minister Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to introduce Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2005-2006. This bill requests authority for additional appropriations of \$63.719 million for operation expenditures, and \$3.034 million for capital investment expenditures, in the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

Major items included in this request for operation expenditures are as follows:

- a total of \$16.4 million for the additional expenses resulting from the finalization of the Collective Agreement between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Union of Northern Workers;
- \$20 million for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to provide contribution funding to communities pursuant to the community capacity building initiative. These contributions are funded by the federal government's Northern Strategy trust fund;
- \$3.5 million for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment for the provision of French and aboriginal language services in the NWT. The expenses will be fully offset by the revenues from the federal government;
- \$2 million for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment for additional expenses resulting from the finalization of the Collective Agreement between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association;
- \$1.3 million for energy conservation initiatives to help promote energy conservation and mitigate the impact on increased energy prices for the Government of the Northwest Territories and NWT residents.

The operations funding requests are within the 2005-2006 supplementary reserve. The major requests for capital investment expenditures are as follows:

- \$2.8 million for the Department of Transportation to advance funding from the 2006-2007 fiscal year for the airport passenger terminal building in Yellowknife, as the project is ahead of schedule and is anticipated to be near completion by the end of the fiscal year;
- a reduction of \$2.1 million for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment in order to advance the joint design of construction of the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School and Samuel Hearne Secondary School projects in Inuvik.

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Yes, that's what he said. Mr. Aumond.

Mr. Aumond: Thank you, Mr. Chair. All of our construction contracts have a clause in there that they are subject to approval by the House. The appropriation must be approved by the House. That's a subject to clause. This project is no different. It's subject to the approval of the House in the plan before you today.

We have awarded and we gave a letter of award for the contract on the project. We have not signed a contract with the contractor as there are still details to be worked out. But this contract, like any other, is subject to approval of this House. Thank you.

Mrs. Groenewegen: Okay. So if this House does not approve this appropriation and this contract has already been awarded, what position does this government find itself in if we do not proceed with this contract that's been awarded? If we do not agree to the appropriation for this project, what kind of exposure have we got?

Mr. Aumond: We have not signed a contract with the contractor, so we have no exposure to the contractor.

Mrs. Groenewegen: So we have awarded the contract, but we haven't signed the contract. You know, this is kind of a fine line here. Does the awarding of the contract in any way legally bind this government to this contract in the absence of the actual appropriation of the money approved in this House?

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: No.

Mrs. Groenewegen: The details that the Minister and the deputy minister referred to that need to be worked out: are there dollar and value issues associated with those details?

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: The issues are to do more with issues tied to bonding issues and such.

Mrs. Groenewegen: Just as a matter of process, who would have signed off on the award of this contract?

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Aumond.

Mr. Aumond: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We gave a letter of award. We did not sign off on the award of the contract. It's a standard practice to us when we come to an agreement on the fundamental aspects of a contract that we provide a letter of award — it's like a letter of intent when you're entering into a lease — subject to working out all the terms and conditions of the contract, which we have not yet done, which is why we have not yet signed the contract.

Mrs. Groenewegen: Did the letter of award subject to working out the details also include subject to the approval of this House, and did that letter of intent include a dollar value, and are we capped at that dollar value?

Mr. Aumond: We are capped to the dollar value in the letter of award, and the contract is subject to the appropriation being made available by this House.

Mrs. Groenewegen: So to my question, then, just to be clear: in the letter of award is that clause included in that letter, that that is subject to the approval of this House?

Mr. Aumond: No. The letter of award does not state that it's subject to approval of the House. The contract does.

Mrs. Groenewegen: This is probably the largest capital project built in the history of our government, barring the Deh Cho Bridge, which is a P3 and a little bit different but an actual project within the purview of this government. To my knowledge this is the largest capital project ever built. Could we get some rationalization for why it was a negotiated contract as opposed to a competitive process? Were other means of procuring this project considered, like breaking it up into smaller pieces? On a negotiated contract, when the process has been described previously as having to meet with the agreement of the MLA, the mayor and the Cabinet, was the MLA who approved the negotiated contract the MLA for Inuvik Boot Lake, the Premier and the Chair of the Financial Management Board?

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: I'm sure there are some very pointed questions that have some possible implications here. I want to be careful. This negotiated contract process was followed. It was supported by the Gwich'in in Inuvialuit, the mayor and the folks in the region. It's within the Gwich'in Settlement Area, where we have an agreement for contracts. It has followed due process. It was brought forward through the appropriate channels and was approved based on the support from the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in, MLAs, the mayor and all the required community people.

Ms. Groenewegen: It's a long period of time, so this will be end of my pointed questions. I thought pointed questions were allowed.

The question I asked previously was: were other procurement options than a negotiated contract considered for this particular capital project given its size and the cost to this government?

Chairman (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Aumond.

Mr. Aumond: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, we were originally planning to design the school and put it out to tender. However, as I explained in standing

committee, based on our track record of, I guess, enticing competition, we knew that we ran a pretty good chance of designing the project until its completion, putting it out to tender and only having one company bid on it.

Then as we were working our way through the design process, we had a request for a negotiated contract. We went through the policy, the approvals were sought and received, and then we brought in the contractor in the early part of the project to get their input on the buildability of the project, with the intention of trying to save money. In a way it did provide some value to the design at that point. Construction costs were in excess of about \$110 million. Through the use of value engineering brought forward by the contractor, we were able to get that down under a hundred million dollars for the construction. Based on previous experience, such as in Fort Good Hope when we put a design build-up for a school, we only really had one contractor. We did have a southern based contractor bid on the school, but we ended up paying a \$1.3 million VIP premium on that facility. So I think we're getting fair value if you look at what the costs are for this school versus what we're paying for the renovation of St. Joe's, where it's a renovation project. You know, the cost of construction is around \$6,100 to \$6,200 a square metre. That cost was a given last year. Remember, we saved \$9 million on that school.

The school in Inuvik is really two schools under one roof. It's K to 12. It's about four times the size of St. Joe's, and St. Joe's is about \$30 million. So if you look at the ratio proportion — plus this is a cost that's going to be carried over the next four years — I think the cost is quite reasonable given what we're paying here in Yellowknife for construction now for St. Joe's or what we paid in N'dilo for École Allain St-Cyr.

So to answer the MLA's questions, we did consider other options. However, we have a process for a negotiated contract that was supported by the region and the community, and I think we're getting decent value for the proposal that we have in front of us. Thank you.

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: Mr. Chair, I just wanted to reiterate for the record that this project is replacing Sir Alexander Mackenzie and Samuel Hearne, two fairly large schools, and as Mr. Aumond indicated, it's going to provide the schools under one roof. Those are two large facilities. There's a large school population. So we have to keep that in mind as well. It speaks to the size. Thank you.

Ms. Groenewegen: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that we report progress. Our Members are little down on this side, so I will ask to report progress, please.

Chairman (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Unfortunately, we do not have a quorum on the floor, so we'll ring the bell, unless you have another comment.

Thank you. We do have a quorum. The motion is in order and not debatable.

Motion carried.

Chairman (Mr. Bromley): I will now move and report progress. I'd like to thank the Minister and the witnesses. The Sergeant-at-Arms may escort the witnesses out of the House. Thank you.

Report of Committee of the Whole

The House resumed.

Mr. Speaker: Can I have the report of the Committee of the Whole, Mr. Bromley.

Mr. Bromley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document 93-16(2), Northwest Territories Capital Estimates 2009-2010, and would like to report progress.

Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. A motion is on the floor. Seconded, the honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

Motion carried.

Mr. Speaker: Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, item 23, Orders of the Day.

Orders of the Day

Deputy Clerk (Mr. Schauerte): Mr. Speaker, Orders of the Day for Thursday, October 9, 1:30 p.m.

- 1) Prayer
- 2) Ministers' Statements
- 3) Members' Statements
- 4) Reports of Standing and Special Committees
- 5) Returns to Oral Questions
- 6) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
- 7) Acknowledgements
- 8) Oral Questions
- 9) Written Questions
- 10) Returns to Written Questions

Mr. Abernethy: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to preface my comments by saying that I absolutely one hundred per cent support replacing the schools in Inuvik. Now, having said that, I'm not quite sure I understand the cost, to be quite honest.

Based on last year's capital infrastructure plan, we've got a new school that we're putting into Fort Good Hope. It's going to be \$24 million, and we just finished one in Tulita that was \$22 million. Last year in the capitals the budget for the Samuel Hearne and Sir Alexander Mackenzie replacements were \$79 million. Based on what I was listening to last week when we were doing the general comments, it's over \$100 million. I believe someone mentioned \$116 million.

It seems a little excessive to me. I mean, I know with that school we've gone from a design where it was like a half-moon, which is a little crazy and would have driven the cost up.... I understand now we're talking about a combined school, which is, I think, fantastic. I think that should help us reduce costs, so why do more? I'm a little surprised by the cost. I'm not saying let's not build it, but I'm really kind of confused by the costs, and I would like to know how we got there. I would like to know how a school that's so expensive.... What are we building? Is this like the Taj Mahal of the Northwest Territories? What are we building? What's wrong?

You know, some people say: whatever; why don't we build a box? Boxes are cheap. We can build a box. We can put state of the art equipment into it, and it will be functional. It may not be the most beautiful building you'll see, but it will be totally functional, and then there's all that extra money we could put into programming. I mean, ultimately the programming is as important as the school, and by building something this expensive, they will never be able to match the O&M for this thing. I'm a little worried; I'm a little stunned. I'm not sure how we got to this price tag.

I was wondering if the Minister could help me understand how a school is going to cost us \$116 million, \$117 million — I don't even know the price — well over \$109 million to build a school.

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): Minister of Finance.

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will defer that question to Mr. Aumond.

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Aumond.

Mr. Aumond: Thank you, Mr. Chair. When we first started to look at the concept of the combined schools project in Inuvik back in late 2005, we came up with an estimate based upon what the cost of construction was at that time. As we worked our way through the process, not only was the construction market really starting to escalate at that time, but ~~the reliability of any estimates —~~

whether it would be by the GNWT or if we talked to people in the construction association trying to estimate something three or four years out — for construction was and is very difficult in this market.

If Members also recall, we are changing our new capital planning process now for new projects. They have to go to the class C estimate stage before we will consider them into the capital plan so that we have an understanding about what the scope of work is and what it is going to cost, what the areas are of the different rooms, to get a really good idea about what it is we are building and how much it's going to cost.

That's really where we are now with the Inuvik schools when we came up with the price that we have today. ~~When you saw the plan last year with the budget that you mentioned, it was based more or less on last year, what work we had done at that time. Over the last year we have advanced the project to where it is at. Then when we got the first schematic design, the construction estimate was well in excess of a hundred million dollars. We rejected that design and directed the architect to go back and take a much more simple approach. We were also able to bring in a prospective contractor to get the contractor's advice about how to make it simpler to build, make it cheaper to build. The fact of the matter is that the school project itself is roughly 11,900 metres, and the areas of the schools that you had mentioned are anywhere from 2,700 square metres to 3,200 square metres. So the ratio proportion between those schools that are coming in at \$20 million to \$30 million for 3,200 square metres, versus 11,900.... The pricing is right in the ballpark of what we paid for those schools.~~ (smaller)

It is just that the size of the school is for 1,050 students, where the other schools are probably in the neighbourhood of around 120 to 130 students, or 200 students maybe. So it is a larger building; there is no question about that. But I think we have done our level best to try and get this down to a simple building. There are no fancy curves or multislope roofs that you may have seen in other facilities. It is a fairly simple, straightforward building compared to what we originally had to deal with. I could go on for longer, I suppose, but I think that is the summary of where we were and where we are now and how we got the cost where we are at today.

Mr. Abernethy: Thank you for that information. Looking in the Inuvik Drum today, it still strikes me looking kind of like a half moon. I get what you're saying, and I understand the importance of this building. Like I said before, I am going to support it. It comes back to some things I heard earlier this session about our capital getting out of hand from time to time. Maybe it's time that we walked away from pretty buildings. Maybe it's time that we

started talking about buildings that are based on form and function and reducing our costs.

Like I said, boxes are cheaper to build. You know, I don't want to knock the beauty of the proposal for this school you're building in Inuvik, but a box would have been cheaper, and we would have been able to fit the same number of classes. We probably would have found convenient ways to heat it, and we would have had a good school with the classrooms required to educate the children of the North. It didn't need to be most beautiful thing on Earth.

For future reference — I am going to throw it out there — we're going to keep building schools in the Northwest Territories. We're still going to need hospitals. We're still going to need community health centres. There are a lot of things we are going to be building over the years, and I would like to see us get a little bit away from "let's build something incredibly beautiful" to "let's build something that is practical, makes sense and will last in the northern economy based on the realities that we are facing," which includes things like global warming and the price of oil. If we keep trying to build these grand, beautiful buildings, we are going to cause a lot of damage to ourselves and to our bank account in very short order.

So no real question there, but I am throwing it out there, because we need to seriously think about it, and we need to make sure that what we are building is practical and is the right building to build. It doesn't need to be the most beautiful.

I do have one question. A lot of these estimates, I understand, were based on market information for the last year or so when oil was quite bit a higher. Oil has dropped, so does that mean we will see any sort of savings in the construction of this if the oil price stays down where it is now for a portion of the construction year?

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): Minister of Finance.

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: Thank Mr. Chairman. Just quickly in response to the Member's suggestion, the subcommittee on infrastructure that is looking at the capital planning process is in fact considering those very things that the Member has raised. There has been work underway that is being done, which is why we are, in fact, in this Legislature at this point in time doing capital early. Standardized designs and the bundling of contracts are some other things that are very evident to us as opportunities that the Member has pointed out, not only for schools but for houses and health centres. We appreciate the concern about costs as we sit here as a Legislature year after year.

In terms of the potential savings, if the cost of oil stays down for any significant length of time, combined with other factors — if there is tightening

up or a chilling effect in terms of construction projects and things that aren't going to get built and there are some more interesting projects and steel and things are more available — those could all be potentially things that we can benefit from. At this point things are so fluid it will be too early to say.

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): We're on page 7-7, Education, Culture and Employment, Activity Summary, Infrastructure Investment Summary, Total Infrastructure Investment Summary: \$74 million. Mr. Jacobson.

Mr. Jacobson: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Sitting here, looking at the list that we have of the infrastructure acquisitions for '09-10 and '11-12, I do not see.... Basically, pretty bleak for the communities. We are not getting anything — again. I said it last week and put it in a Member's statement. There are people having to share a bathroom at the Mangilaluk School, teachers. I see them eating lunches in the hallways. But then, you know, we can go and build a \$110 million school, quoting it out of the newspaper today, and communities are being left out.

I mean, we are here. No fairness, again. I said it last week and I'm going to say it again: there's no fairness. I know it has been in the books for years, and I do support the school in Inuvik. It's a beautiful building, but what about the outlying communities? We're having to send our kids to Inuvik for education, because the quality of the school in the communities is not adequate. They are having to do grade 12 again. This government has got to get their minds wrapped around it, letting the fairness show in regard to small communities. You know, I sit down here, same thing again: nothing. I can't mention numbers, but a lot of these communities are hurting. The people of the Northwest Territories as a whole are not being treated fairly.

Chairman (Mr. Krutko): Minister of Finance.

Hon. Michael Miltenberger: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the Member's concern. The issue of more demands on our resources is one that we constantly struggle with. The Premier is committed to looking at the 20 year capital plan.

I know the issue, the request the Member is raising in the House, about an expansion of the school there. We also will be pulling together a timeline going back five years and going forward five years so that we can all get a tiered look at how capital has been apportioned out over that period of time. Then we can make informed decisions and adjustments and look at what the requirements are in terms of any improvements coming out of this capital planning process, which we have all agreed we are going to be revamping for the next little while.

GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

INFRASTRUCTURE ACQUISITION PLAN

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND EMPLOYMENT

Education and Culture

Project	Community	Total Prior Years'	(thousands of dollars)				Total	Type Indicator
			2005- 2006	2006- 2007	2007- 2008	Future Years		
Tangible Capital Assets								
Colville Lake Territorial School - Modular Building	Colville Lake	-	-	-	448	-	448	TCA
Chief Tselihye School Renovation	Fort Good Hope	-	1,934	7,858	-	15	9,822	TCA
Deh Gha School - Roof Repair	Fort Providence	-	-	-	-	-	100	TCA
Joseph Burr Tyrell Elementary School - Sprinkler	Fort Smith	-	600	-	-	-	600	TCA
Jean Wettrade Gameti School Addition	Gameti	20	650	695	10	-	1,375	TCA
French First Language School - New School	Hay River	2,408	1,100	10	-	-	3,518	TCA
Diamond Jenness School Change Room Upgrade	Hay River	-	-	50	150	-	200	TCA
Sir Alexander Mackenzie School - Replacement	Inuvik	15	2,557	14,159	3,484	15	20,230	TCA
Samuel Hearne School	Inuvik	-	-	-	-	15,302	15,302	TCA
Kalemi Dene School - New School	Ndilo	-	1,099	2,570	10	-	3,679	TCA
Education Council Student Achievement System	Territorial	-	100	75	75	-	250	TCA
Chief Albert Wright School - New School	Tulita	3,382	4,108	5,943	835	-	14,268	TCA
Fuel Tank Replacements	Various	-	120	-	-	-	120	TCA
Small Community School Program and Technical Upgrades	Various	-	500	500	500	1,000	2,500	TCA
Wood Pile Remediation	Various	-	2,000	2,000	2,000	-	6,000	TCA
Capital Infrastructure for Upgrade of Trade Facilities / Shops	Various	-	-	-	100	200	300	TCA
Prince of Wales Heritage Centre Renovation	Yellowknife	6,435	1,989	18	-	-	8,442	TCA
Prince of Wales Heritage Centre Gallery Redevelopment	Yellowknife	-	50	200	-	-	250	TCA
New School	Yellowknife	-	10	4,951	11,428	10	16,399	TCA
Total Tangible Capital Assets		12,260	14,998	33,105	26,898	16,542	103,803	

* Type Indicators: TCA – Tangible Capital Asset IC – Infrastructure Contribution

GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

INFRASTRUCTURE ACQUISITION PLAN

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND EMPLOYMENT

Education and Culture

Project	Community	Total Prior Years'	(thousands of dollars)					Total	Type Indicator
			2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	Future Years			
Tangible Capital Assets									
Colville Lake Territorial School - Modular Building	Colville Lake	300	137	-	-	-	437	TCA	
Chief Tselihye School Renovation	Fort Good Hope	15	1,992	7,938	15	-	9,960	TCA	
Joseph Burr Tyrell School - Sprinkler	Fort Smith	620	2,284	10	-	-	2,914	TCA	
Jean Wettrade School Addition	Gamètì	670	870	600	10	-	2,150	TCA	
Diamond Jenness School Changeroom	Hay River	-	50	200	-	-	250	TCA	
École Boréale	Hay River	3,508	10	-	-	-	3,518	TCA	
Sir Alexander Mackenzie School Replacement	Inuvik	231	1,568	3,019	6,840	19,049	30,707	TCA	
Samuel Hearne Secondary School Replacement	Inuvik	241	1,684	3,193	7,455	20,796	33,369	TCA	
Manglatuk School - Renovation/Sprinkler Upgrade	Tuktoyaktuk	793	592	-	-	-	1,385	TCA	
Chief Albert Wright School - New School	Tulita	7,490	6,990	934	10	-	15,423	TCA	
Wood Pile Remediation	Various	3,839	-	1,800	-	-	5,639	TCA	
Kalemi Dene School - New School	N'dilo	1,099	3,100	453	10	-	4,662	TCA	
Education Councils/Authorities Student Achievement System	Territorial	250	75	75	-	-	400	TCA	
Sir John Franklin High School	Yellowknife	-	-	803	-	-	803	TCA	
Ecole Allain St-Cyr Addition	Yellowknife	500	300	1,333	10	-	2,143	TCA	
Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre Aviation Gallery	Yellowknife	50	1,370	-	-	-	1,420	TCA	
Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre Arctic Gallery Redevelopment	Yellowknife	-	150	100	-	-	250	TCA	
Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre Subarctic Gallery Redevelopment	Yellowknife	-	-	200	50	-	250	TCA	
Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre Sewer Upgrade	Yellowknife	-	12	100	3	-	115	TCA	
Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre Orientation Gallery Redevelopment	Yellowknife	-	50	-	-	-	50	TCA	
Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre Renovation	Yellowknife	8,425	18	-	-	-	8,443	TCA	
Total Tangible Capital Assets		28,031	21,252	20,758	14,403	39,845	124,288		

* Type Indicators: TCA - Tangible Capital Asset IC - Infrastructure Contribution

GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

INFRASTRUCTURE ACQUISITION PLAN

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND EMPLOYMENT

Education and Culture

(thousands of dollars)

Project	Community	Total Prior Years'	2007- 2008	2008- 2009	2009- 2010	Future Years	Total	Type Indicator
Tangible Capital Assets								
Chief Tselihye School - Replacement	Fort Good Hope	2,007	-	3,409	11,135	5,996	22,547	TCA
Thomas Simpson School - Boiler Replacement	Fort Simpson	-	50	700	-	-	750	TCA
Bompas Elementary School - Boiler Replacement	Fort Simpson	-	50	700	-	-	750	TCA
Joseph Burr Tyrell Elementary School - Upgrade	Fort Smith	2,904	612	-	-	-	3,516	TCA
Jean Wettrade Gameti School- Addition	Gameti	1,540	1,304	12	-	-	2,856	TCA
Diamond Jenness School Changeroom Upgrade	Hay River	50	200	-	-	-	250	TCA
School Site Drainage - Improvements	Hay River	-	100	150	-	-	250	TCA
Sir Alexander Mackenzie School - Replacement	Inuvik	1,798	3,623	9,408	8,178	13,540	36,547	TCA
Samuel Hearne Secondary School - Replacement	Inuvik	2,025	3,832	10,146	8,916	14,868	39,787	TCA
Kalemi Dene School - Replacement	N'dilo	4,198	2,198	12	-	-	6,408	TCA
Education Authority Student Achievement System	Territorial	825	-	100	-	-	925	TCA
Chief Albert Wright School - Replacement	Tulita	14,480	7,930	12	-	-	22,422	TCA
Sir John Franklin High School - Upgrade	Yellowknife	-	964	-	-	-	964	TCA
Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre Subarctic Gallery Redevelopment	Yellowknife	-	250	-	-	-	250	TCA
Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre Arctic Gallery Redevelopment	Yellowknife	150	100	-	-	-	250	TCA
Ecole Allain St. Cyr - Addition	Yellowknife	1,000	3,040	12	-	-	4,052	TCA
Total Tangible Capital Assets		30,977	24,253	24,661	28,229	34,404	142,524	

* Type Indicators: TCA – Tangible Capital Asset IC – Infrastructure Contribution

Education and Culture

Project	Community	Total Prior Years'	(thousands of dollars)				Total	Type Indicator
			2008- 2009	2009- 2010	2010- 2011	Future Years		
Tangible Capital Assets								
Roof Replacement – Moose Kerr School	Aklavik	250	2,082	-	-	-	2,332	TCA
Chief Jimmy Bruneau School Boiler	Behchokq	250	250	-	-	-	500	TCA
Fuel Tank Replacements	Déline	-	134	-	-	-	134	TCA
Chief T'Selehye School - Replacement	Fort Good Hope	2,007	3,409	12,717	5,996	-	24,129	TCA
Thomas Simpson School - Boiler Replacement	Fort Simpson	50	700	-	-	-	750	TCA
Bompas Elementary School - Boiler Replacement	Fort Simpson	50	700	-	-	-	750	TCA
Joseph Burr Tyrell Elementary School - Upgrade	Fort Smith	3,516	600	-	-	-	4,116	TCA
Jean Wettrade Gameti School- Addition	Gameti	5,894	12	-	-	-	5,906	TCA
School Site Drainage - Improvements	Hay River	100	150	-	-	-	250	TCA
Diamond Jenness School Renovation	Hay River	-	800	15,000	12,000	565	28,365	TCA
Sir Alexander Mackenzie School - Replacement	Inuvik	4,608	4,408	15,000	10,040	2,000	36,056	TCA
Samuel Hearne Secondary School - Replacement	Inuvik	5,568	4,646	20,916	11,190	1,500	43,820	TCA
K'alemi Dene School - Replacement	N'dilo	6,396	2,873	9	-	-	9,278	TCA
Education Authority Student Achievement System	Territorial	-	100	-	-	-	100	TCA
Mangiluk School Fire Suppression	Tuktoyaktuk	-	400	-	-	-	400	TCA
Chief Albert Wright School - Replacement	Tulita	22,410	352	-	-	-	22,762	TCA
Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre - Gallery Redevelopment	Yellowknife	300	100	4	-	-	404	TCA
Ecole Allain St. Cyr - Addition - Phase 1	Yellowknife	4,610	12	-	-	-	4,622	TCA
Ecole Allain St. Cyr - Addition - Phase 2	Yellowknife	-	-	12	1,297	13,973	15,282	TCA
Total Tangible Capital Assets		56,009	21,728	63,658	40,523	18,038	199,956	

* Type Indicators: TCA – Tangible Capital Asset IC – Infrastructure Contribution

Infrastructure Acquisition Plan 2012-13 by Community

Description	Dep	Type Indicator	Total Prior	(thousands of dollars)				Future Years	Total	Project Type
				2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2014-15			
Gamèti										
PH, 1 unit, major retrofit	NWTHC	HC	-	-	40	-	-	40	HC	
PH, 1 unit, major retrofit	NWTHC	HC	-	-	-	36	-	36	HC	
Community Government Share of Capital Formula Funding	MACA	IC	-	735	735	735	1,470	3,675	L	
			-	735	775	771	1,470	3,751		
Hay River										
PH Retrofit 32 units, major retrofit	NWTHC	HC	-	300	-	-	-	300	HC	
PH, 9 units, major retrofit	NWTHC	HC	-	-	300	-	-	300	HC	
PH, 8 units, major retrofit	NWTHC	HC	-	-	-	300	-	300	HC	
Community Government Share of Capital Formula Funding	MACA	IC	-	1,260	1,260	1,260	2,520	6,300	HC	
H.H. Williams Memorial Hospital	HSS	TCA	2,600	12,000	18,300	26,000	-	58,900	L	
Diamond Jenness School - Renovation	ECE	TCA	27,850	2,050	-	-	-	29,900	L	
			30,450	15,610	19,860	27,560	2,520	96,000		
Hay River Reserve										
Community Government Share of Capital Formula Funding	MACA	IC	-	736	736	736	1,472	3,680	L	
			-	736	736	736	1,472	3,680		
Inuvik										
PH Replacement 4 units, fourplex, materials and labour	NWTHC	HC	-	1,300	-	-	-	1,300	HC	
HELP New Unit 2 units, single family dwellings, materials and labour	NWTHC	HC	-	700	-	-	-	700	HC	
PH, 10 units, major retrofit	NWTHC	HC	-	-	900	-	-	900	HC	
HELP, 2 unit, single family dwellings, materials and labour	NWTHC	HC	-	-	800	-	-	800	HC	
PH, 3 units, major retrofit	NWTHC	HC	-	-	-	400	-	400	HC	
PH replacement, 4 units, fourplex, materials and labour	NWTHC	HC	-	-	-	1,350	-	1,350	HC	
Community Government Share of Capital Formula Funding	MACA	IC	-	1,231	1,231	1,231	2,462	6,155	HC	
Sir Alexander Mackenzie & Samuel Hearne Secondary School	RECE	TCA	101,243	9,158	4,920	44	-	115,365	L	
Happy Valley Park - Perimeter Security Fencing	ITI	TCA	-	10	-	-	-	10	S	
Gwich'in Park - Hiking Trails	ITI	TCA	-	100	-	-	-	100	S	
Patrol Boat	ENR	TCA	-	60	-	-	-	60	S	
			101,243	12,559	7,851	3,025	2,462	127,140		
Jean Marie River										
HELP New Unit 1 unit, single family dwelling, materials	NWTHC	HC	-	265	-	-	-	265	HC	
HELP, 1 unit, single family dwelling, labour	NWTHC	HC	-	-	170	-	-	170	HC	
Community Government Share of Capital Formula Funding	MACA	IC	-	640	640	640	1,280	3,200	L	
Runway LED Lighting	DOT	TCA	-	150	-	-	-	150	S	
			-	1,055	810	640	1,280	3,785		

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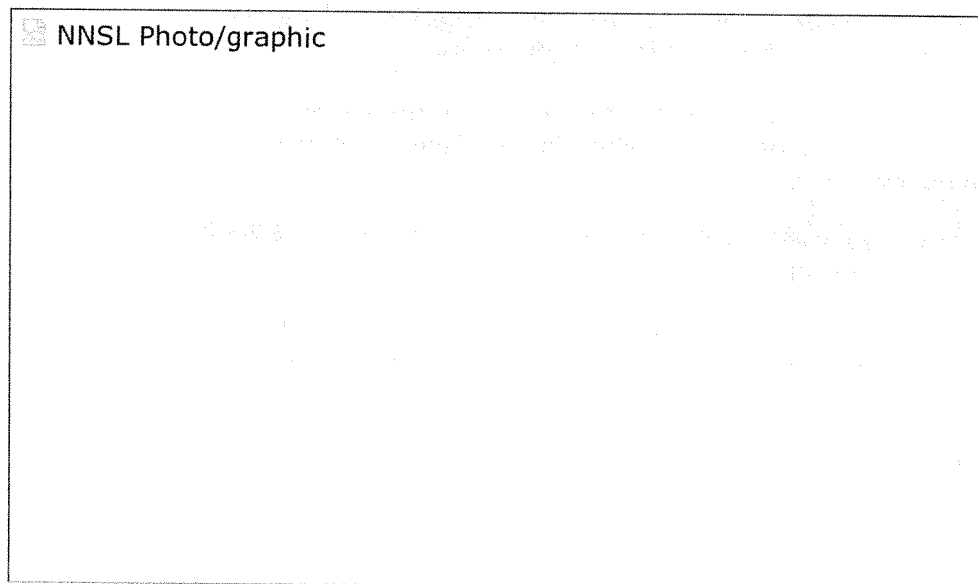
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Workers examine the destruction at Samuel Hearne secondary school following the collapse of its foyer roof due to heavy snow in April 2004. - NNSL file photo

Super school

Jason Unrau

Northern News Services

Inuvik (Nov 11/05) - With \$64 million budgeted over five years, Inuvik will be on the receiving end of the largest capital project ever conceived in the territories - a joint elementary and high school facility, tentatively planned to open to students in the fall of 2010.

The proposed facility will replace the aging Sir Alexander Mackenzie and Samuel Hearne secondary schools.

"With the piling examination results, there was a need, from public works and services view, to push the SHSS replacement project ahead," explained Floyd Roland, Public Works and Services minister.

According to Roland, the original plan was to begin construction on a new elementary school to be finished for the 2008 school year. Samuel Hearne's replacement was to follow, expected to be complete and ready for occupancy in 2010.

However, following the closure of SHSS due to structural problems at the beginning of this school year, plans have now changed.

Roland blasted over Inuvik school construction contract

Last Updated: Friday, October 10, 2008 | 10:13 AM CT

CBC News

Some Northwest Territories MLAs are raising questions about the \$115-million construction contract for a new school in Premier Floyd Roland's constituency, asking why the government didn't allow anyone to bid on it.

The new school, which would replace Inuvik's aging elementary and secondary schools, is considered to be one of the government's biggest and most expensive projects.

But in the legislative assembly this week, some MLAs asked why the government decided to award the construction contract to one company instead of allowing companies to make bids.

Roland said large construction contracts that have been put out for bids before have not drawn much interest.

"When a project has been approved by the house — whether it goes out tender, negotiated or even sole-sourced — if the value comes in higher than approved, the appropriate department would have to come back for a request for additional resources," Roland said.

But Hay River South MLA Jane Groenewegen said she wants to know what role Roland may have played in deciding to go with just one company — a company she said is partly owned by the Inuvialuit people in the area.

She also pointed out that Roland is not only premier and the MLA for the area where the school will be built, but he was also finance minister at the time the decision was made.

"We have a duty to some fairness in equity in distribution of the limited resources that we have," she said.

"So when something like this major comes up, we have to ask questions. And if the premier takes exception to it, there's nothing I can do about it."

Earlier this week, a Finance Department official said the company that has been identified to build the school has already provided some advice that will save money on the project.



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Inuvik school construction costs soar

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Dez Loreen

Northern News Services

Published Monday, October 20, 2008

INUVIK - The cost of Inuvik's new super school is nearing an estimated \$110 million, according to the territorial Department of Public Works.

Members of the legislative assembly asked the government about the rumoured cost of building the new Inuvik "super school" last week.

Hay River South Jane Groenewegen asked Education Minister Jackson Lafferty if a contract for the construction of the school had been awarded.

Lafferty said he knew of the contract, but could not confirm the cost of the school construction at that time.

Groenewegen also asked about a rumoured cost of \$140 million.

In reply, deputy minister of Public Works Mike Aumond said the costs of the school were nearing "\$110 million."

Finance Minister Michael Miltenberger said the government has a cost estimate that has been agreed upon with the companies involved but said the amount could not be released yet.

"We have a very clear specific figure that has been agreed to, but the contracting process has not been concluded yet," Miltenberger said.

Inuvik regional superintendent Roy Clarke said he could not comment on the current cost of the school because his department is waiting on the finalized contracts.

"We can't talk dollars right now, there are things working through the system," said Clarke.

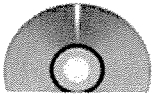
Clarke said he would not confirm or deny that the cost ballooned from a projected \$76 million in February 2008.

He said the two numbers could represent two different costs.

"There is the construction costs, which are different than the total project costs," he said.

Clarke explained the total project costs included moving the baseball diamond and preparing the lot for construction.

He said once the contract was signed and agreed upon, it would be in the hands of the legislative assembly for budget approval.



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A sketch of the exterior of the Inuvik super school, scheduled for completion in February 2013, according to Minister Michael McLeod.

A super effort for a super school

Steel structure for new Inuvik school to go up this summer

by Guy Quenneville
Northern News Services
Inuvik

Things are quiet at the moment in Inuvik as Dowland Contracting, the company building the Inuvik "super school," waits out the last days of winter, but next month, plans for construction of a new \$95 million school will kick into high gear.

With more activity will come more jobs, said Michael McLeod, minister of Public Works and Services for the GNWT.

Construction of the new 120,000-square-foot school began in 2007 with grading and draining of the site.

The super school will replace and combine the Sir

Alexander Mackenzie (elementary) School and the Samuel Hearne Secondary School.

This year, \$41.9 million from the capital budget of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment will go toward the project, in addition to the \$14 million the GNWT has already contributed.

In November, Dowland began installing structural pilings on which the building will rest. That job was completed by the first week of March.

"During the piling installation, there were probably 10 local hires from Inuvik working at the site at any given time," said McLeod.

"Dowland has indicated to us that this will probably increase to between 30 and 40 during the erection of the superstructure," which is slated to begin next month.

"And then, in the following three years, we anticipate that trades numbers working on site and the camp will probably rise to almost 50."

Maximizing local opportunities is key, said Patrick McGuinness, CEO of Dowland.

"We're working with the local communities to identify training opportunities for the local people here who can work on the job."

As well, Dowland is working with the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation to identify opportunities for local businesses.

The construction plan calls for the building to be enclosed by Christmas.

"Hopefully then we'll be able to do the inside stuff during the coldest part of the winter," said McLeod.

The current schedule calls for the school to be complete in February 2013, with only minor alterations or touch-ups after that, according to McLeod.

"We expect to finish

toward the end of 2012," said McGuinness.

The super school won't be the first building Dowland has built in Inuvik; it has previously worked on both the residence and administrative buildings for Aurora College's Inuvik campus.

The company also built the new Chief Albert Wright School in Tulita last year and is currently at work on the \$20 million Chief T'Selehye School in Fort Good Hope, due to be finished in two years. Both buildings are around 30,000 square feet.

The GNWT has had its eyes on a new school in Inuvik for a



Michael McLeod, minister of Public Works and Services, GNWT.

number of years, given the age and deteriorating condition of the Sir Alexander Mackenzie and Samuel Hearne schools, said McLeod.

The former was built in 1965; the latter, 1967. It was time to replace both buildings.

"Samuel Hearne suffered a partial roof collapse and then it had a fire in 2004," said McLeod. "We had a structural inspection of the wood pilings in 2005 and there were a number of problems as a result of that."

"It started to make sense to have a complex that is a single facility that is easy to maintain and operate."

"We're working with the local communities."

The Inuvik super school by the numbers

Current capital estimate: \$95 million
Amount contributed by GNWT to date: \$14 million
Amount GNWT will contribute this fiscal year: \$41.9 million
Size: 120,000 square feet
Began construction: 2007
Projected completion date: late 2012 or early 2013
Current phase: awaiting summer to begin erection of steel superstructure
Previous phase: installation of structural piles
Labour force during pile installation: 16
Workers from Inuvik during installation: 10
Projected number of Northern workers for summer 2009: between 30 and 40
Age of Samuel Hearne Secondary School: 42 years
Age of Sir Alexander Mackenzie School: 53 years

Source: Dowland Contracting; GNWT



The pilings installation for the Inuvik super school, by Dowland Contracting, began in November and finished in March.

Our Guy in Inuvik

By Lauren McKeon | Photos by Michael Ericsson In 25 years, Guy Pemberton turned Dowland Contracting into a multi-million-dollar corporation. And he's done it from Inuvik, a tiny Northern town located high above the Arctic Circle. Now, as he catapults toward an even bigger Dowland, is the time ripe to move headquarters south? Even if Edmonton, Calgary, or Ottawa are easier and more lucrative to operate from, Pemberton's staying put.

It's 1 p.m. in Inuvik and the December sunrise looks like melting cotton candy, dripping pink, purple and blue. A crew of 75 men are working on the biggest building project currently under way in the NWT. Officially, the \$92.3-million structure is called the combined Inuvik school, but nobody calls it that. It's the Super School, and not just because of its size. The colossal, 129,000-square-foot elementary-junior-high school has brought the wonder and excitement of something new to this small Northern town, of something that isn't falling apart, cramped, peeling paint, chipped, dull or asbestos-filled. The excitement of something special.

The men – gruff and icicle-lashed if working outside, sweating sweet-sharp sawdust if inside – can't help but know this feeling. They can't help it because taped to the wall of the mess room, above two dozen empty Nabob tins and tables covered with mustard and ketchup-stained paper plates, is a giant, painted sign: "Thank you for building our new school!!!!" The white banner is covered with sparkled and fluorescent bursts of well wishes: Stay safe; Thanks for the hard work; I know it's going to be awesome. They can't help but feel excited, too, because they know what it means to be Northern. And they know that the founder and president of the lead contractor, Dowland Contracting, knows what it means to be Northern. Indeed Guy Pemberton, an Englishman by birth and a global traveller by choice – who lives within spitting distance of this mega-school – is Northern.

You could say Dowland is just a contractor that won a bid – a big, important, eye-poppingly lucrative bid – but still just a bid, and that's what companies do, after all. Pemberton won't offer a correction. "Guy should get recognition for what he's done," says Hector Campbell, a 17-year Dowland veteran and a 30-year-long friend. "Not just here in Inuvik, but he does a lot of work for other communities. He's employed a lot of people. He's helped a lot of people out. He's done a lot of favours. But Guy's very modest about it, he won't tell you."

You'll have to figure it out yourself: ask people about the oil and gas work Dowland's done, the houses, warehouses, schools and public buildings it's built, the people Pemberton's employed through boom and bust, the favours he's doled out, the employees he's counselled. Ask what does it mean that Dowland has prospered through the recession, is expanding, has offices east and west from the B.C. coast to Winnipeg, north and south from Inuvik to Edmonton? That right when it makes the most sense to move his headquarters south, Pemberton won't do it? That he won't budge from Inuvik even as he reaches for his goal of making Dowland one of the top 10 contractors in Canada? That he wants to show the country, the industry and the town of 3,000 that it can be done from Inuvik, that success can happen here, that success can happen because it's here?

\$95 million Inuvik school more than half complete

Project creates nearly 450 jobs

by Guy Quenneville
Northern News Services
Inuvik

The \$95 million school currently under construction in Inuvik will begin its life at the start of the 2013 school season.

"We're going to finish it a little earlier than that; we're going to finish in early spring of 2013; but then we still have to commission it and get it all into operation, get any new furniture moved into it. And the real move – the paper and the books and that sort of thing would happen during the summer," said Brent

Rausch, superintendent of construction for the GNWT's Department of Public Works and Services.

But there's still a lot of work to do until then, he added.

"We're calling it 62 per cent complete," said Rausch. "If you go on site what you see is the foundation and the superstructure – they were finished last summer. So the building's pretty well there standing. The building envelope was completed last fall, with everything except for the siding. So the building's all

closed in and it's under temporary heat.

"In the interior, the steel stud partitions are all up and mechanical and electrical rough-in is ongoing. They're almost done (that). Drywall's at various stages because it's a large project."

Large is right.

The two-storey school, which will replace Samuel Hearne Secondary School and Sir Alexander Mackenzie School, at almost 130,000 square feet, is about as long as two football fields. It can accommodate up to 1,050 students.

"We haven't done anything this large before. Just as an example: to walk around this thing is about half a kilometre," said Rausch.

"There are two large gymnasiums in it. One of the features is that one of those two gyms could be opened up between them so that you have one large gym."

The tight insulation and wealth of windows will help save on energy, said Rausch.

"There's a lot of opportunity for natural light to come into the building, and what that does is it allows you to

dim back your lights as you've got sufficient light outside and sufficient light coming in through your windows."

The project has created a tremendous amount of work for the region.

"The total person hours that we've got on this to date 226,280, which is a lot," said Rausch.

"So far there's been 442 workers on the job, and of those, we know that 52 per cent of them are Northern and 43 per cent of them are local."

In terms of spending, "So far, we've spent \$57 million on the job and of that, 76 per cent has gone to Northern businesses, and 52 per cent of it is going to local businesses."

In early 2009, the major contractor on the project, Downland Contracting Ltd., partnered with Aurora College, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Inuvialuit Regional Council to form the Employment Opportunities Group.

The aim of the group is to maximize the amount of local employment on the massive project.

After coming together, the partners put out a call for resumes from NWT residents.



Todd Ingram, senior project officer, oversees the Inuvik school replacement project for the GNWT's Department of Public Works and Services. Here, he stands at the construction site at the start of the installation process for the school's steel superstructure.

The councils helped residents of the region prepare their resumes.

The group then screened the resumes to see if some

candidates required additional training before starting work on the school.

Twenty students graduated from a pre-employment

course offered by Aurora College in the fall of 2009.

"So far, 10 of those have been working on the school already," said Rausch.

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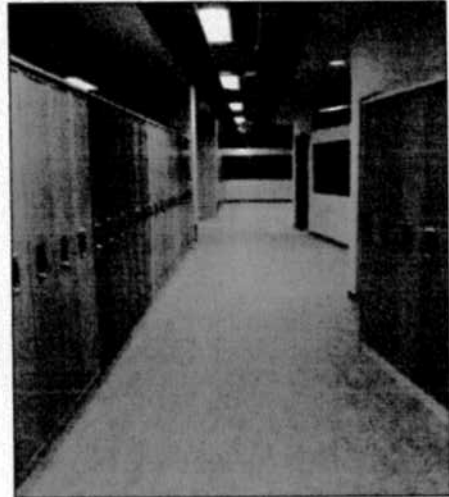


A panoramic view of the completed exterior of Inuvik's new super school. The building will cover 129,000 square feet.

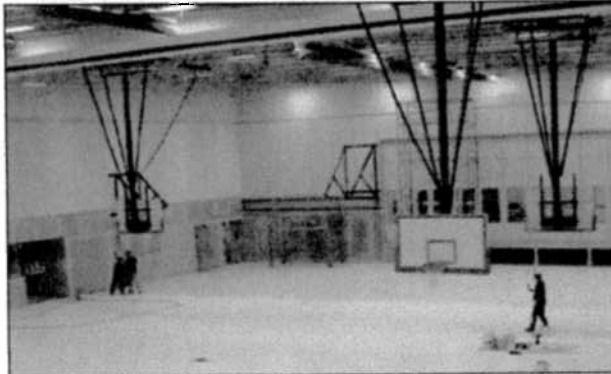
Inuvik's new Super school nears completion

CONSTRUCTION Feature
Dowland Contracting
Northern News Services
Inuvik, NWT

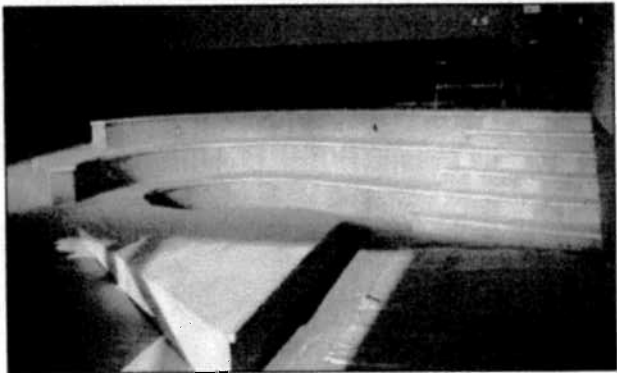
With a \$110-million price tag and a mammoth floor plan, Dowland Contracting is nearing completion on what has come to be known as the NWT's super school in Inuvik.
The 129,000 square-foot joint elementary and secondary school has taken nearly 60 months to complete. Students are expected to take their first classes this fall.
The two-storey building features a pile foundation made for permafrost environments, concrete on metal deck floor assembly and a steel structure.
text by Sara Wilson



A view from inside one of the many hallways in the super school. It will replace the elementary and high schools.



Workers on site in Inuvik put the finishing touches on the super school's new gymnasium.



A look at the primary library section, also called the story-telling area.



A view of the back of the mega construction project.



The beginning stages of the elementary play area as seen in September 2011.