

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
8TH COUNCIL, 56TH SESSION

PETITION NO. 3

PRESENTED ON June 19, 1975

Petition # 3-56
Tabled June 19, 1975

Box 57,
FROBISHER BAY, N.W.T.

Councillor Bryan Pearson,
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Dear Bryan,

Recently a group of parents concerned about Education in general have got together and compiled the enclosed questionnaire. It was primarily done, believing that at this meeting you might have the opportunity to make known our wishes to the Council when they meet next week in Yellowknife. We believed and understood that the Education Ordinance was to be discussed and decided upon. We therefore felt that some voice from the people should come from the Eastern Arctic. The people who suggested the questions are from both cultures.

The replies to date have been very small in number, but I have tried to work out the Yes/No ratio in percentages to make matters easier. The comments by parents I am going to quote in full as I feel you may find them helpful.

Question # 1	99% Yes	# 3	55% NO	(out of order - sorry)
# 2a	97% Yes	# 5	99% Yes	
# 2b	99% Yes	# 6	100% Yes	with reservations regarding severity.
# 4	80% Yes	# 7	99% Yes	
		#8	100	

The division of replies is as follows 1/3 from Inuit parents 2/3 others.

COMMENTS :

Should parents have a say about which teacher they should have. We definitely should be able to choose our child's teacher at elementary level. Is there a way we can do this?

I would like to have them more school works and less activity games. And they have too many changes of teachers. The teachers change too often. They should stay not just one winter but maybe two to three years. They should have math and writing every day and less activity games.

Yes we would like to have take exams. But I don't think the teachers give exams any more. Yes math and writing should be taught daily.

Where is our Education Committee?? I think our schools should not even open if an active Education Committee does not exist and have its recommendations listened to and eventually followed by Education Administration in our Community.

~~Each of~~ Why is there so much apathy in the schools? Why is the teacher turn-over so great each year?

It would be interesting to know the superintendants views on the schools and education being given in Frobisher. What is happening to the students going from 7-8 (grades) this year since they seem to have lost out in this experimental program this year?

Whose job is it to supervise the teachers and their programs? Shouldn't the whole school be pulling together for the betterment of the pupil? There is a real need to think about what a classroom of pupils loses because a teacher is away on conference, workshop, language program, federation work or travelling all over with 13 student.

I would like to see the schools set a homework policy if a child is having difficulty homework should be assigned without question.

Why isn't French taught, as in most NWT schools. Why are the programmes so behind to the west?

Why in an officially Bi-lingual country is French not taught in all grades?

Why is the implementation of NWT Educational policies (and standards) so different in the Eastern Arctic (as opposed to the Western NWT. In the same areas they are two Years behind in the East.

When are they going to start teaching a second language i.e. French or Inuktitut as a daily subject

If English is considered an academic subject when are they going to teach sentence structures and grammar

Why can't the Inuit students be treated equally? They are not special and should not be pampered. If so, the initiative to work hard is gone - all students, Inuit or white must have that incentive to progress successfully.

Is the goal of a given school to 'teach people certain facts about certain subjects for a certain length of time over the given year' or is it 'to develop, intelligent, mature whole human beings who are motivated and capable of living full human lives. We are supposed to be working to the Alberta standard at High school level. Why is it that so many of the Alberta courses are not available - even by correspondence?

P.T.O.

Why do the available correspondence courses i.e., Physics in 1974-75 year, take so long to be available? Last years course did not arrive here until just prior to Christmas. Thus students could not complete the course, and gave it up. This year students taking correspondence courses are asked to pay for them themselves 'in case they give them up'.

When is the Department of Education going to make going to school interesting enough for students who want to complete their schooling? From what I see of students these days, I feel the new system of education leaves a lot to be desired, and is probably the reason why more student 'drop out' than ever before.

Comments on other forms are more or less covered above Bryan, so I will not bother to be too repetitive.

I was called to a meeting with Mr. D. King, Mr. Nash, and Mr. R Carson, as well as Mr. Stapleton yesterday. I pointed out to all concerned that there has been no 'going behind the backs of educationalists' in this questionnaire. It was compiled with the good intention of definitely provoking answers, and that whatever results came of it would be made available to yourself, and also to all those connected with education in Frobisher Bay, if they wished. At the time of distribution the schools and various other agencies co-operated, but I think the schools now wish that maybe they had not done so.

I hope you had a very enjoyable holiday with your parents, it was good to meet them.

Yours very sincerely,


Rita M. Burrows.

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