

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
10<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY, 9<sup>TH</sup> SESSION

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TABLED ON FEBRUARY 18, 1987

CAPE DORSET EDUCATION COUNCIL  
b7-L2c

FEB 18 1987

January 29, 1987

Mr. Joe Arlocktook  
MLA Representative for  
Baffin South  
LAKE HARBOUR, N.W.T.  
XQA QNO

Dear Mr. Arlocktook:

Re: Cape Dorset Education Council Concern

In reference to a call we received from your secretary, Mary Akavak, on January 16, asking if Education Council had any concerns for you to take to the N.W.T. Legislative Assembly next month.

Education Council had its regular meeting on January 22, where the matter concerning the shortage of staff housing was discussed.

There are 8 staff houses which are being occupied by 11 staff at present. Total of staff teaching at Pitsiulaaq School is 14; where Classroom Assistants and Special Needs Assistants are not included. Since there are only 8 staff houses available for staff to live in; the remaining 3 staff are fortunately living in other houses. We were fortunate enough to hire the 2 staff who did not need to be accommodated in staff houses. Fortunately private housing was leased by the government when the 3rd staff member was hired a few months ago. The staff member accommodated in the private leased house will only be teaching until June. It is possible that the house the staff is occupying at the moment may not be leased afterwards.

One of the staff members living in a non-staff house, who is on a term position, will be leaving in March; fortunately the staff will be replaced by a person living in a private house. Had this not been so, we would not have been able to find accommodation.

Last year when hiring was being done, we had to keep in mind the number of staff houses available for accommodation. We had to try and hire couples who were both teachers; and this situation limited our choice in hiring of staff.

We are aware that we will need to keep in mind the shortage of staff houses again this year when hiring takes place; and hope that it will not be too serious. Shortage of staff houses will definitely discriminate against single staff from being hired; which is not fair to single applicants or to the Education Council.

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CAPE DORSET EDUCATION ~~SECRET~~ COUNCIL  
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- 2 -

More problems may be created, when a female member of staff, who occupies staff housing, goes on maternity leave. Certainly, the staff would need replacement; and the replacement would need accommodation. Please keep in mind that staff who are on maternity leave, or any one staff on some kind of leave, does not move out of the staff house she or he is occupying.

In addition to regular staff, last year, we were understaffed by 3 positions. One of these positions was filled due to the government finding accommodation to lease. This however was not easy, as there are hardly any private accommodations in the community. If the additional required staff becomes available to us, housing must be obtained or we will lose the positions to other communities, and this is our concern.

Shortage of staff houses needs to be dealt with for Cape Dorset without delay. The teacher/pupil ratio needs to be kept in mind. If not, problems could occur which may effect students from learning properly. This could be crucial to them in the future.

We would like to see at least 6 staff houses built for staff in Cape Dorset.

We appreciate your interest on our concern. We would like to know if and when action would be taken, after you are back from the Legislative Assembly.

Please feel free to contact us either by letter or by calling our office at the number listed below. Thank you again for your interest.

Sincerely,

*M. Niviaqsi*

M. Niviaqsi, (Miss)  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Education Council  
Cape Dorset, N.W.T.  
XOA OCO

c.c: Dennis Patterson - Minister of Education  
Joe Enook - BDBE Chairman



