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August 1, 2007



Honourable Charles Dent
Minister of Education, Culture and Employment
Government of the Northwest Territories
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YELLOWKNIFE, NT X1A 2L9

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Rae Lakes, NT
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Dear Minister Dent:

Gameti School Expansion

In response to your letter regarding the ongoing delay in the decision of the Gameti school extension; we remain deeply concerned and adamant that this project should go ahead for the benefit of our children, "our future" and our community.

It was through no fault of our own that this project lost momentum and came to a complete halt, after missing the deadline for transporting the necessary equipment to start the foundations of this project.

That the cost of this project has exceeded its original budget due to those delays again remains out of our control.

What we are requesting is not a facility of luxury but merely a facility of need, where our children and youth have a positive learning environment, the same standards and opportunities as the children and youth in the larger communities.

They should have the right to learn in their own community, to grow and take part in their heritage and culture, not to be forced to spend those important years in residences outside their own community, away from and missing out on family life.

That you would even mention bringing in trailer facilities instead, is simply not an option. How can we facilitate important infrastructures such as a gym and offer a positive learning environment in a confined trailer atmosphere?

This community presently has no facilities where children and youth can exercise, play together to learn the skills and the importance of being part of a team, to learn the life skills needed to take them forward to be a successful and healthy adult.

Much money has been spent by the Government on promoting the advantages of a healthy lifestyle, exercise and education.

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We the community of Gameti ask that you give the children and youth of Gameti this opportunity. That they have a learning place you would place your own children in.

We ask that negotiations with the contractors are revisited, pencils be sharpened, budgets revised, so that a suitable solution can be obtained that is agreeable to all parties involved.

I am available to offer assistance or answer any questions as needed.

Masi

Chief Henry Gon
Community Government of Gameti

C.c. Premier Handley
Hon. Jackson Lafferty MLA Monfwi
Hon. Floyd Roland Minister of Finance
Grand Chief George Mackenzie
Dan Marion Ticho Development Corporation
Alphonse Nitsiza TCSA
Chief Leon Lafferty
Chief Charlie Nitsiza
Chief Charlie Football
Gameti Local Education Authority