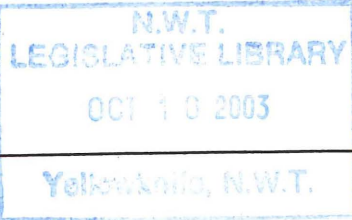


RESPONSE TO PETITION



6-14(6)



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 1 0 4 - 1 4 (5) TABLED ON OCT 0 9 2003

Petition tabled by Mr. Krutko on October 2, 2003

Response by the Honourable Jake Ootes
Minister of Education, Culture and Employment

Financial Assistance for Students in Aklavik

I read with some concern the situation described in the Petition, *Financial Assistance for Students in Aklavik*, by the students of the Hope and Alex Gordon Learning Centre in Aklavik.

The Petition had asked if there was funding available for the students in Aklavik who are enrolled in adult upgrading programs. Unfortunately, the Government does not provide financial support through its Student Financial Assistance (SFA) program for students studying at the high school level.

However, there is financial support available from several other sources. First, students who are eligible can apply for financial support under the federal University/College Entrance Preparation program administered by the Northwest Territories SFA program. It is intended for students who only require two semesters of upgrading in order to be eligible to enroll in a postsecondary program and provides a level of support similar to that offered by the SFA program.

Second, students can receive financial support through the Income Assistance program. Through this program, students can receive help with their food, clothing and shelter expenses for themselves and their families.