

**Quqshuun Ilihakvik
Gjoa Haven, N.W.T. XOE IJO**

Mr. Tom Stewart, Director,
Kitikmeot Board of Education,
Coppermine, N.W.T.

January 13, 1993

Housing Concerns:

Dear Tom:

The staff of Quqshuun Ilihakvik are very concerned over the Gvt. of N.W.T. Housing Strategy. We have many questions and concerns regarding this programme and the way that this policy is proposed to be implemented.

Questions:

1. What arrangements are going to be made for staff who are over accommodated not through their own wishes, but because of no other suitable housing available?
2. Who would be doing evaluating of housing quality eg: insulation, energy efficiency?
3. What arrangements are going to be made to bring the houses up to a suitable energy efficient standard?
4. Present maintenance is very poor. DPW in Gjoa Haven have been understaffed for one year, with the result that maintenance has suffered. How long will it take to bring the houses up to standard?
5. Why are rental fees based on Yellowknife square footage rates when settlements do not have the options of housing and services of Yellowknife?
6. How were the Yellowknife rates determined? What are the Yellowknife rates?
7. How is the issue of tenants sharing services going to be addressed?
8. We have been instructed by letter by Ken Lovely to address any questions to our local Pay and Benefits clerk. This office does not return calls - who is available to answer our questions?

Concerns:

1. Settlements are unfairly being penalized because of isolation and high costs of transportation and shipping. Fuel costs are approx. 50% higher than Yellowknife prices.
2. By the year 2000 Education proposes to have 50% northern teachers, however the rest will still have to come from elsewhere. Staffing of education positions will be extremely difficult as individuals will not be able to afford to live in the north, and will choose to go elsewhere.
3. Entry people in the education system are very severely effected by the proposed housing changes.



They will not be able to afford to enter the education profession because of the high costs involved in housing.

4. The timing of the proposed housing changes is very questionable. Nunuvut will be implemented in 1999 - and with only 7 years available for training individuals for positions in the new government, the Government of the N.W.T. effectively removes professionals in place by making housing costs unaffordable. Those professionals in place are needed to train and prepare individuals for taking on responsible positions in the new government. It seems to be a very non supportive role for the Government of the N.W.T. to take in relation to development of self government.

5. Local northern teachers in the teaching profession will be forced to leave the profession due to the high cost of housing. This is evident through one of our own qualified teachers who has informed us that he will be unable financially to remain teaching. We are trying to encourage northern teachers, not force them to leave teaching.

6. There is no private housing available in settlements, therefore individuals have no other options for housing. They do not qualify for hamlet housing. Individuals are reluctant to buy their own houses because of lack of market when they wish to leave the area. Housing Corporation programs are of little use to most teaching staff.

7. Gjoa Haven pays 73 cents per litre for fuel. Our fuel options are limited, - no propane, no availability of wood or other alternate fuel sources. Gjoa Haven has a 35% longer heating season than Yellowknife plus higher electrical requirements due to the fact of location in the high arctic.

8. In settlements there is very limited housing available, and tenants are unable to have a choice of moving to a more energy efficient house, or smaller size accommodations. Indeed, we are simply "placed" by personnel into a house, with no other option. If you do wish to move out of government housing and build it will take at least a year to construct and move considering barge schedules.

9. Some houses of the same age and structure have been better maintained than others, and are structurally more sound and yet they all will be paying the same amount of rent.

10. The feeling of distrust due to the lack of understanding, lack of care of employees welfare, lack of communication between employer and employee have all led to high levels of anxiety and stress to employees. They are being asked to take on more responsibilities in their workplace, but at the same time are being heavily penalized financially and emotionally.

11. One of the reasons that the Gvt. of the N.W.T. gives for this new housing change is that it will make tenants more aware of being energy conscious. A very large number of our houses have structural weaknesses and are not energy efficient and so tenant's energy savings will be limited by the structural realities of our units.

12. The proposed rent changes that the Gvt. of the N.W.T. plans on implementing does not seem to be well thought out, with many questions not answered, with no thought given for the implications of this proposal on long range development of Nunuvut, or the effect this proposal will have on the personal lives of staff.

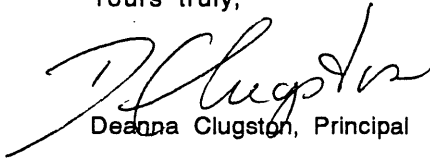
13. The settlements will be unable to attract professionals into the education system due to the high cost of housing. Individuals will choose to go elsewhere and children, our future, will suffer.

14. Local economy will suffer as there will not be the availability of loose cash to spend at the Northern and Co-op stores and the purchase of local art.

We as a staff ask for the support of the of the Kitikmeot Board of Education to lobby

government to suspend the proposed Long Term Housing strategy until a review of this strategy has been mutually agreed upon by tenants and landlord.

Yours truly,


Deanna Clugston, Principal

c.c. P. Elliott, S.O.S. KBE

Simon Ayokok

ADJ. L. D. [unclear]

R. Hopkins

Maaskant

Jessie M. Hillier

Ellen G. [unclear]

Neathelobbs

Ronald J. Power

Uoch [unclear]

El. [unclear]

Stan [unclear]

D. Harrison

Jessalton

Lorraine [unclear]

John [unclear]

Rachel Higgins

Paul [unclear]
Bradley J. Lyts

