



RESPONSE TO PETITION

No. 1-87(2) c.2

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 12-88(1)
TABLED ON

FEB 15 1988

Government Library
FEB 17 1988
Government of N.W.T. Executive Council

Petition tabled by Mr. Peter Ernerk on November 12, 1987.

Response by the Honourable Dennis Patterson on behalf of the

Maani Ulujuk School be Retained for the use of Rankin Inlet Kindergarten to Grade Nine Students and all High School Programs Move to the New School

In 1981 a planning committee was struck for the Keewatin Region. This committee considered the possibility of establishing a Keewatin Regional Education Centre to serve the needs of adolescents and adults in that region. Rankin Inlet was recommended as the most appropriate site for the centre. At that time the proposal was accepted, and it was subsequently included in the G.N.W.T. Five Year Capital Plan. In 1983, on considering the consultant's proposal, the Executive Council did not accept the estimated cost of the centre, which totalled \$20 million. In light of the cost of the proposal, and the many demands being made on the G.N.W.T. capital budget, the Department of Education was directed to conduct a comprehensive review of the planned construction of all education facilities to ensure that capital dollars were being spent effectively.

At the same time the Minister of Education was receiving requests from across the Territories to extend high school grades in many communities. The Minister set guidelines for the extension of grades in communities, and strongly encouraged the development of community high schools. The Minister of Education then met with the Keewatin Regional Education Authority (K.R.E.A.). The K.R.E.A. approved the concept of establishing community high schools in Baker Lake and Eskimo Point, and an area high school in Rankin Inlet. The extension of grades in communities, such as Eskimo Point and Baker Lake, has affected enrolment projections in Rankin Inlet, and consequently affected the former decision to construct a large high school in that community.

The result of the review of the cost of constructing education facilities was a decision to standardize the design of all future Territorial schools. In early 1986 the Executive approved a standard design for Territorial schools, and a plan to create high school classrooms in existing schools by building stand-alone elementary schools. These decisions affected all communities, as well as Rankin Inlet, and allowed more schools to be repaired and replaced throughout the N.W.T. within the constraints of the capital plan.

In May 1986 the Minister of Education met with the Keewatin Regional Education Authority, the Rankin Inlet Community Education Society and the Hamlet Council to discuss the G.N.W.T.'s revised approach to education facility capital planning, and the Keewatin capital plan. He explained that the Executive had decided to revise its entire capital plan, including Keewatin's plans, in light of the decisions approving a standardized school design and the extension of grades in communities, and the other pressing capital demands in the N.W.T. By changing the plans for the centre in Rankin Inlet, costs were reduced and new/replacement schools could be

- 2 -

built in other communities in the Keewatin, including Chesterfield Inlet and Repulse Bay. The Minister recognized that the change in plans would be a disappointment to some residents in Rankin Inlet, but he explained that it would be more cost effective to build a primary school in Rankin Inlet because the existing school was well equipped for high school programs. It had the required home economic, industrial arts and science facilities.

The new school will contain 17 classrooms. In school year 1988-89 the projected enrolment for Kindergarten to Grade Six in Rankin Inlet is 323 students (this includes the projected enrolment of Kindergarten students divided by two as they attend school for one-half the day). These students would be well accommodated in 16 classrooms. Although the new school has no classrooms for Home Economics, or Industrial Arts, it does contain its own library/resource centre, and it does have a small kitchen area that could be used for teaching purposes with small numbers of students. The unused classroom could be used for these purposes as well. Also a time sharing arrangement could easily be organized to allow Kindergarten to Grade 6 students access to the present Maani Ulujuk School for Home Economics and Industrial Arts should that be required. The gymnasium in the new building is more than adequate for primary students.

The average annual percentage increase in enrolment of students in Rankin Inlet since 1980 is about 2% to 3% (not including the recent effect of introducing new grades) and no dramatic increases are anticipated in the near future. Also the new school was designed to permit the construction of five additional classrooms when they are required.

The present Maani Ulujuk School contains 18 classrooms, and in actuality it is not much larger than the new building. In 1988-89 Maani Ulujuk School will accommodate Rankin Inlet Grade 7, 8 and 9 students, the students enrolled in alternative programs, and the 10, 11, and 12 regional students as well. It is anticipated that 11 classrooms would be required for these students, and even if the high school utilized 2 or 3 additional classrooms for a rotary system, 4 or 5 classrooms would still remain for Arctic College students. In addition Maani Ulujuk school has separate facilities for Home Economics and Industrial Arts, as well as a resource centre, and the community operated library.

The new school is now near completion and it is being constructed for primary students. It would be unreasonable to try to accommodate high school and Arctic College students in that facility because their programs require lab, shop and home economic facilities which have not been constructed in the new primary school. Consequently, these students would have to make frequent trips across to the existing school, which has been built to accommodate high school programs. With the development of community high schools, the new policy on standard school design, and the need to spend capital dollars responsibly so that more schools can be repaired



RESPONSE TO PETITION

No.

1-87(3)

NWT GOVERNMENT LIBRARY



3 1936 00005 167 0

- 3 -

and replaced, the original proposal for a regional education centre in Rankin Inlet was changed. This will require the existing Maani Ulujuk School to accommodate students in Grades 7 to 12, as well as Arctic College students. The students in the primary grades will be accommodated in a brand new facility designed specifically to satisfy their needs.

The provision of education facilities is one aspect affecting the delivery of education. The residents of Rankin Inlet should be proud of Maani Ulujuk School and the new school being constructed in their community. Both of these facilities will contribute to the delivery of a high quality educational program in Rankin Inlet.

RESPONSE TO PETITION

No.

2-87(2)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Petition tabled by Mr. Steve Kakfwi on November 16, 1987

Response by the Honourable Gordon Wray, Minister of Public Works and Highways, on behalf of the Executive Council.

Winter Road - Norman Wells to Fort Good Hope

The construction of a new winter road, is a responsibility of the Federal Government under the mandate of the Northern Roads Program. Existing winter roads, developed prior to transfer of the Intra-Territorial Road system to the GNWT, are covered by a Federal/GNWT funding agreement. A winter road to Fort Good Hope would be a new road, and as such would require the commitment of additional funding by the Federal Government to initiate its construction and ongoing maintenance.

The GNWT is continuing to assess the new road needs of the Territories, and a winter road extension to Fort Good Hope is certainly high on the list. However, no additional Federal funding has yet been provided, and the estimated cost of such a road exceeds any identified surplus within the existing Highways operation and maintenance funding.

It is to be hoped that current negotiations with Federal authorities may increase the GNWT Highways budget sufficiently to enable a winter road to be developed and maintained to Fort Good Hope from Norman Wells in the near future.

In the meantime, the GNWT is not able to reallocate funding away from existing facilities in order to undertake new initiatives which we consider a Federal responsibility.

Mail Received

DEC 1 1988

CLERK OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

RESPONSE TO PETITION

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Petition tabled by Mr. Joe Arlooktoo on November 16, 1987.

Response by the Honourable Gordon Wray, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, on behalf of the Executive Council.

Lake Harbour Water Supply Contamination

Staff from the Regional office of Municipal and Community Affairs met with Council and representatives of the community on January 7, 1988 and discussed the problem in detail. It became very evident that the community is convinced that they want another source of water other than their present Lake Fundo. The potential contamination problem did not appear to be a major issue at this meeting although it was mentioned. All water samples taken to date at the lake by the proper authorities indicate no contamination is present and that the water meets the acceptable Canadian Drinking Water Standards.

There is no denying that in the minds of many of the community residents Lake Fundo poses a problem as a drinking source.

Due to the present timing in the capital plan of improvements to the water supply in Lake Harbour from Lake Fundo and due to the strong feelings expressed in the community the Department is prepared to request the Regional staff to meet with the community during this upcoming summer when the lake is thawed and proper review can be undertaken to determine whether there has been a garbage build up in this lake. Departmental staff will review the other potential water sources and confirm information presently contained in previous studies and reports undertaken over the years.

As an interim measure the Department will provide an extraordinary operating contribution of \$10,000 to the Council in Lake Harbour as they proposed to ensure adequate burial of garbage in the dump area during the next fiscal year.

This review will be conducted in full consultation with the Hamlet Council in order that any conclusions and recommendation are jointly developed and agreed upon.

Petition tabled by Mr. Kilabuk on November 16, 1987.

Response by the Honourable Dennis Patterson.

1. Proposal for Increase in School Facilities, Attagoyuk School, Pangnirtung, N.W.T.

The proposal submitted by the Pangnirtung Education Council for an increase in school facilities for the Attagoyuk School in Pangnirtung has been reviewed by my officials and myself.

The present school has a capacity of 315 student years based on fourteen classrooms, including the three portables. Upon completion of the new school which will have seven classrooms and a resource centre, the capacity will increase by 157 to a total of 472 student years and is adequate for enrolments forecasted in the Education Council's proposal. If the three portable classrooms are removed or demolished, we agree that additional classroom space will be required a few years after the completion of the new primary school in the 1989/90 school year. It is, however, the Department's intention not to replace the three portables until we upgrade the present school and provide additional classrooms and a gymnasium to the primary school by the mid 1990's or earlier.

The result of this plan, which will be entered into the Capital Plan this coming year, will be a K-6 elementary school and a 7-12 junior/senior high school.

At the present time it is impossible to include the additional classroom space and gymnasium to the new primary school to be built next year. This would cost an additional \$2,500,000 over the present budget of \$2,700,000. Due to the lack of additional capital funds from the Government and facility needs elsewhere in the Baffin Region and the rest of the Northwest Territories, I am unable to approve this request.

In the new year, my officials will be meeting with officials of the Baffin Divisional Board of Education to review the educational facility needs for Pangnirtung and enter those needs into the Capital Plan.