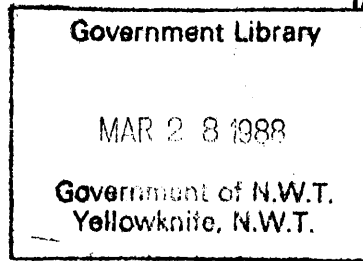


LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY

C/O ELIZABETH WARD SCHOOL - FORT PROVIDENCE, N.W.T. XOE OLO

Mr. Sam Gargan
Deh Cho M.L.A.
General Delivery
Fort Providence, N.W.T.
XOE OLO



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MAR 23 1988



Wednesday, March 16, 1988

Dear Sam,

At a special meeting last night, the Fort Providence Local Education Authority discussed Dennis Patterson's proposed staff cuts. After discussing the effect these cuts would have on our school, we have decided to speak in opposition to the cutbacks.

According to the formula, we would be cut 1.5 staff members next year. This would mean either cutting the Slavey Language Program or spreading the students out amongst five classes. During the cutbacks two years ago, the L.E.A. decided to cut the physical education position and the home economics and shop positions. Since the loss of a physical education teacher, the school is finding it hard to field teams to attend regional tournaments. These tournaments had been an important part of the school program. They developed school spirit and gave the students some incentive to attend school. Our Phys. Ed. Program has become very disjointed with each teacher teaching his or her own class and therefore it has become impossible to bring a team together after school.

As an L.E.A., we have strongly supported the Slavey Language Program in the school. The students have begun to speak and read their own language and feel some self-esteem. If we are forced to cut this program, the teaching of culture in the school will be lost.

If the decision is made to add students to each class, we will be adding to the teachers level of stress and frustration. In a school of our size, each teacher teaches at least two grades with students at four or five levels. On top of this, has been added Special Needs Students without enough financial support to provide the required assistants. Now to add three or four more students to a class of twenty-two or twenty-three students will increase the teachers frustration levels more. The sad truth is that the good teachers leave because they are already giving one hundred and ten percent and cannot give any more.

At the present time, we are faced with a lack of success in our school. Although fourteen students are entering in the kindergarten class only two are moving on to grade ten. Although many factors play a role in the low success rate, more students per class, fewer subjects outside of the core program, frustrated teachers and less individual attention will not help to improve the quality of education. We are striving to provide the best possible education to our students and feel the Minister's policy, if passed by the Assembly, would be detrimental to our goal and our community.

Yours sincerely,



Lois Philipp,
Chairperson

LP/cbr

cc: Dennis Patterson
Nolan Swartzentruber
Jane Arychuk
School Staff