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Education Council
Cape Dorset, n.w.t.
XOA OCO

March 3, 1988

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Joe Arlooktoo
Member of Legislative Assembly
Lake Harbour, n.w.t.
XOA

Re: Staff Housing Shortage in Cape Dorset

Dear Mr. Arlooktoo

It is of great concern to us that our school continues to suffer serious set-backs due to the shortage of housing available for teachers in Cape Dorset.

Last year one of our teachers lived in a house leased from the private sector and there were problems because it was substandard. In the early summer of 1987, this housing shortage meant that our carefully chosen C.O.P. teacher refused to come here and transferred to another community instead. We hired locally for this new and very important position in our school. In addition, two teachers new to Cape Dorset in August 1987 were forced to share housing for over four months. As they were incompatible, this living situation caused much hardship among staff members. Their situation was remedied only because one of our teachers resigned at Christmas, thereby providing the opportunity for the two teachers to have separate housing. Once again we have hired locally to fill this most recent vacancy.

Our upcoming housing shortages will increase even more as:

- 1) A teacher will be going on Maternity leave in March 1988 and there is no housing for the replacement.
- 2) Two of our teachers will be applying for educational leave during the 1988-89 year. Only one house would be made available for replacements.
- 3) There is no housing available to hire a qualified C.O.P. teacher.
- 4) Our enrollment is projected to increase and another teacher will be needed.
- 5) At present, two teachers who are married have their own housing. If they should transfer out of Cape Dorset, there would be no housing for replacements.

It is imperative that his situation be dealt with in the immediate future. The problem caused by lack of housing in Cape Dorset will continue to grow and affect the education we are able to provide our children in a significantly adverse way. We urge you to make this matter a priority and to take strong measures in helping us fight for the housing we so desperately need for our teaching staff in Cape Dorset.

Yours Truly,

Timoon Toonoo
Chairman, Cape Dorset Education Council

c.c. Joe Enook, Chairman of the Board, B.D.B.E.
Brian Menton, Director, B.D.B.E.
Dennis Patterson, Minister of Education
Fiona O'Donohue, Supervisor of Schools, B.D.B.E.
Oxsanna Dzura, Principal, Pitseolak School
Charlie Manning, Mayor, Cape Dorset