



January 26, 1991

John Ningark
Member of the N.W.T. Legislative Assembly
Natsilingmiut

Sir John Franklin High School

Dear John;

While the Kitikmeot Board of Education (KBE) is in the process of setting up its own high school system within our division, we are very concerned about the recent moves by Yellowknife School Board District #1 to take over Sir John Franklin High School (SJFHS). Please refer to the attached newspaper clippings. Students from our region, as well as students from the Dogrib communities, the Dehcho communities and the Sahtu will have to continue to use SJFHS for the foreseeable future. If YK#1 is successful in its bid to take over the operation of SJFHS, we feel it will further diminish the opportunities our students have to complete their high school education.

As matters now stand with respect to high school education at Sir John, our students are in a minority when compared to the number of students who attend from Yellowknife. It is sometimes difficult for them to get the support they require and it is very difficult for many community students to complete their high school education being so far away from their families and many of their friends. However, at the present we enjoy at least the support of high school programs and sound links between the student residence and the school which combine to help address our students' needs.

For instance, the following programs are currently offered by SJFHS:

1. **Senior Practical Programs:** These are combination work experience/classroom programs (focussing on the housing maintenance trade) which have considerable appeal to our students who are unable to take regular high school programs. Graduates from SPP can often find suitable employment in their home communities. Very few, if any, Yellowknife students have ever participated in these programs. We would like to see SPP expanded to better accommodate the needs of some of our female students. However, if YK#1 takes over, we expect that SPP would be cut.
2. **Support Programs:** These are advanced diploma courses that many community students take because they give the students more time to cover the same subject material. Instead of completing the course within a semester, students have a full school year to complete the requirements. By spreading the course out over a school year, our students have time to make their adjustments to Yellow-

knife and complete the work that's required with such advanced level courses. Again, because there are relatively few Yellowknife students in these courses, we fear the support programs would be cut as well with a YK#1 takeover.

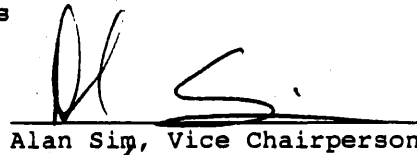
3. **Accommodation of Special Needs Students:** During the past couple of years, the high school has opened itself up to accommodating some of our students of high school age who do not have the academic background to take many of the regular, core, high school courses. This has been a great benefit to these students as it gives them the opportunity to obtain many elements of a high school education which can bolster their self esteem and give them sufficient skills to enable them to seek employment when they return home. We fear that this welcome opportunity for our students may close as well if YK#1 assumes jurisdiction of SJFHS.

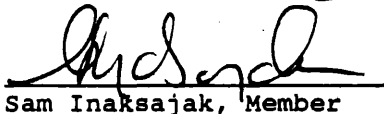
In closing, we ask for your support in helping to maintain Sir John Franklin High School as a territorial high school until such time that all feeder Boards have suitable high school alternatives established. Last fall, our Board passed a resolution (ATTACHED) making this request and the resolution was send out to the other three feeder boards. While we did not hear back directly from them, the Dehcho Board has provided their written support on this issue and the Dogrib Board has voiced support as well.

Your anticipated assistance is appreciated, John.

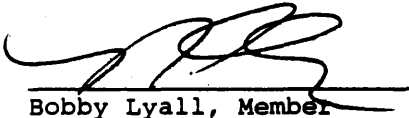
Yours truly,
Kitikmeot Board of Education Members


Dan Harvey, Chairperson


Alan Sim, Vice Chairperson


Sam Inaksajak, Member


Mike Kaiogana, Member


Bobby Lyall, Member


Martha Dwyer, Member


Simon Kuliktana, Member

cc. CEC Chairpersons, Kitikmeot Region
Hamlet Mayors, Kitikmeot Region
Steve Kakfwi, Minister of Education
Joe Handley, Deputy Minister of Education

enclosure

04/144/90 M/S SAM INAKSAJAK/SIMON KULIKTANA

- 1) THAT THE KBE SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION.
- 2) THAT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE SENT TO THE OTHER AFFECTED DIVISIONAL BOARDS AND UPON RECEIVING THEIR RESPONSES, THE JOINTLY SUPPORTED RESOLUTION WILL BE SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:

WHEREAS, SIR JOHN FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL (SJFHS) PRESENTLY SERVES THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF STUDENTS FROM THE KITIKMEOT, THE DOGRIB, THE SAHTU AND THE DEH CHO DIVISIONAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION AND;

WHEREAS, IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT SJFHS WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF THE ABOVE STUDENTS FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE AND;

WHEREAS, YELLOWKNIFE SCHOOL BOARD #1 CONTINUES TO ACTIVELY PURSUE AN INTEREST IN ASSUMING JURISDICTION OVER SJFHS AND;

WHEREAS, THE KITIKMEOT, THE DOGRIB, THE SAHTU AND THE DEH CHO DIVISIONAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION ALL FEEL THAT IT WOULD NOT BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF OUT-OF-TOWN STUDENTS ATTENDING SJFHS FOR YK SCHOOL DISTRICT #1 TO ASSUME JURISDICTION OF THE HIGH SCHOOL.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

THE KITIKMEOT, THE DOGRIB, THE SAHTU AND THE DEH CHO DIVISIONAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION EXPECT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO MAINTAIN SJFHS IN PERPETUITY AS A TERRITORIAL HIGH SCHOOL UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION, OR UNTIL SUCH TIME THAT ALL AFFECTED BOARDS/REGIONS AGREE WITH ITS CHANGE OF STATUS.

CARRIED

(September 20, 1990)