



January 26, 1991

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

**Housing Policy**

Dear John;

We, the members of the Kitikmeot Board of Education (KBE), are very concerned about the 'overaccommodation' element of the planned Housing Policy that is scheduled for implementation April 1/91. According to our understanding, when GNWT employees are overaccommodated at government request after that date, they will be charged the full rent for the unit they occupy.

While we agree that there are many inequities to housing that need to be addressed, we strongly feel that this element of the new policy will have a negative impact on our region's ability to retain teachers, particularly in the smaller communities where we have many single teachers and no single housing units. All of our single teachers who are now overaccommodated at the government's request will face a rental increase on April 1. Because there are no other, more suitable, housing options available in most cases, these teachers will have no choice but to pay an increased rent. From the teachers perspective, this rental increase will amount to nothing more than a pay reduction.

Until such time that we attain our goal of being able to hire all northern teachers, we still depend on the southern labour market to hire teachers to deliver our education programs. With the very competitive market for southern teachers these days, we are concerned about the impact these planned rental changes will have on our turnover rate. At a minimum, we expect that we will see teachers in our smaller communities gravitate to our larger communities (or to other regions) after only one year, where people have more rental options. This could lead to a very high turnover rate in our smaller communities. Also, as knowledge of the rental situation becomes more widespread, I expect that it will become more difficult to hire teachers for our smaller communities. We have reduced our turnover rate in the past few years, particularly in the smaller communities; however, this one factor could negate those efforts.

For your reference, a copy of these concerns as expressed by our teachers in Pelly Bay, is attached.

During a recent visit to the Kitikmeot by the Government Leader, Dennis Patterson, this issue was brought to his attention by more than one Kitikmeot Education Council and Mr. Patterson promised to review the situation. Assuming that such a review occurs, we ask for your support on the overaccommodation issue.

We look forward to your anticipated support on this issue, John, as we recognize that you do not want to diminish the quality of education that our children receive.

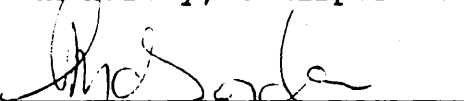
Yours truly,  
Kitikmeot Board of Education Members



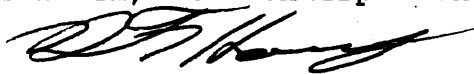
Dan Harvey, Chairperson



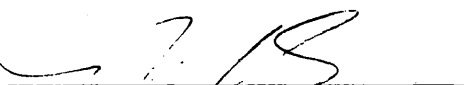
Alan Sim, Vice Chairperson



Sam Inaksajak, Member



✓ Mike Kaiogana, Member



Bobby Lyall, Member



✓ Martha Dwyer, Member



Simon Kuliktana, Member

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

enclosure