



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

BOX 1375, YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T. X1A 2P1 PHONE (403) 873-3505 FAX 873-3395

May 7, 1998

The Honorable Charles Dent,
Minister of Education, Culture
and Employment
P.O. Box 1320
Legislative Assembly
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9

Dear Mr. Dent:

The Métis Nation NWT is writing in support of the NWT Association of School Board Administrators and the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association campaign for more money in the upcoming budget for the education system.

In our work with schools the need for more resources, smaller class sizes and more support for at-risk students is a constant theme. The success of our education system to provide an educated workforce and population is dependent on the support of our government. The longer the education system goes without the additional funding necessary to meet the needs of our schools, the larger the risk of our children leaving the education system without the skills they need to become productive members of society.

The Métis Nation NWT requests that more funding be given to the upcoming education budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. A. Bohnet".

Gary Bohnet, President
Métis Nation NWT



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

BOX 1375, YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T. X1A 2P1 PHONE (403) 873-3505 FAX 873-3395

May 25, 1998

Roy Erasmus,
M.L.A. Yellowknife North
P.O. Box 1320
Legislative Assembly
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9

Dear Mr. Erasmus:

The Métis Nation NWT has always had education as its first priority. The Métis Nation NWT has put forward several projects to enhance and assist the education of our students. The Métis Nation NWT is involved in a tutorial assistance program for students, contaminant education program and the development of the Métis history for educational use to name a few.

The need for additional funding for the education system has become more apparent. The number of students dropping out of school, and needing additional upgrading is too high. Classroom student/teacher ratios are too high for the number of English second language students we have in our education system. Many students are following behind as a result. Also more resources which are appropriate for English second language teaching are needed.

The Métis Nation NWT has written to the Minister of Education indicating our support of additional funding be given to the Education Budget. The young people in our communities are the future leaders and deserve the best education possible. We challenge you to a stand up vote whereby you clearly state your position on additional funding for the Education Budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G.A. Bohnet". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gary Bohnet, President
Métis Nation NWT

May 21, 1998

The Honorable Charles Dent
Minister of Education
Government of the Northwest Territories
Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9

Dear Mr. Dent;

We are writing to express our concern over the erosion of education programs due to cuts in funding for public education. We the undersigned must deal with these effects on a daily basis.

Over the past two years, we have had first hand experience in observing the effects that cost cutting has had on our students. We have faced an increase in enrolment of over eight per cent in the general student population and a greater increase in students with special needs. This enrolment increase, along with a cut of one staff position has made it difficult to deliver programs to those who need it the most. Other adverse effects that funding cuts have had on students' and staff well being include: a decrease in administration time by sixty percent, the loss of a consistent physical education program, computer maintenance and staff training, individualized learning programs, and extracurricular activities. Clearly the facts reflect a situation in where the students are the ones who suffer the most due to education cutbacks.

The facts speak for themselves. We urge you to look at the effects that past government programs have had on the children of the Northwest Territories. It is essential that more funding must be provided to ensure that our students have the tools and skills to meet future challenges. Education truly is an investment.

Thank you.

Yours truly the staff of Echo Dene School, Fort Liard.

[Handwritten signatures and names]
Lana Hill
Kireki Nebanni
Heena Timbe
R. Lindsay
Rm Doon

cc. Pat Thomas, NWTTA
Cabinet Ministers
MLAs



Northwest Territories Teachers' Association

5018 - 48th Street • Box 2340, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7
Office: (867) 873-8501 • Fax: (867) 873-2366 • e-mail: nwtta@nwtta.nt.ca

May 21, 1998

The Honourable Don Morin
Premier
Government of the Northwest Territories
Legislative Assembly
Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9

Dear Mr. Morin:

I listened with interest to the statements, questions and answers concerning education in the Legislative Assembly today.

The current education system is strained to its limit in trying to meet the needs of our students. The goal of maintaining existing levels of programs and services is simply not good enough for the students in our schools.

I recognize the money available to the GNWT is limited and that there are many competing interests for what is available. However, if our children and their future are a priority of the GNWT, then adequate funding must be allocated to education when the new budgets are prepared.

Whenever the issue of adequate funding for education is raised, the response is often the challenge "From what department do you want funds taken?". It is unfortunate that an issue as fundamental as public education is in competition for dollars. I resent having to vie with health and social services for existing funds particularly when our needs often overlap. The question I prefer to answer is: What department do we give money to?

I urge you, as Premier, to ensure that we have the money necessary to deliver a quality education to our children.

I am available to meet and discuss my concerns with you.

Yours truly,

Patricia (Pat) Thomas
President

cc: All MLAs
Central Executive
Regional Presidents



Northwest Territories Teachers' Association

5018 - 48th Street • Box 2340, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7
Office: (867) 873-8501 • Fax: (867) 873-2366 • e-mail: nwttta@nwttta.nt.ca

May 19, 1998

TO: All MLA's

FROM: Pat Thomas

RE: **MORE MONEY FOR EDUCATION IN THE UPCOMING BUDGET**



For many years funding to education councils and school boards has remained the same while the needs of our education system continue to increase. We have large, diverse classes with little or no support. This coupled with fewer resources to deliver existing and new programs has seriously strained our education system.

For your information I have enclosed some material which is relevant to the current education issues in the Northwest Territories.

- Project Star (Student-Teacher Achievement Ratio). A Tennessee class size project which has received recognition and acceptance throughout North America.
- Two editorials from Alberta papers dealing with the STAR report and class size.
- March 3, 1998 Slave River Journal editorial.
- Edmonton Journal guest column written by Paula Stein, former NWT consultant and educator. She makes a number of compelling points which are applicable to the NWT. In particular the point she makes about children who fall through the cracks is noteworthy.
- Insert placed in northern newspapers this week.

More money must be allocated to our education system in the upcoming budget if we are to meet the needs of our students. I strongly urge you to work towards this goal during this sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

I am available to discuss this material and other education issues with you. Please feel free to contact me at 873-8501.

Thank you for your support.

Yours truly,

Pat Thomas
President NWTTA

BOMPAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Box 499,
Fort Simpson, NT,
X0E 0N0
Phone: 867-695-2609
Fax 867-695-2034

5/22/98

Mr. Roy Erasmus
Legislative Assembly
Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9

Dear Mr. Erasmus,

This letter is to urge you to take action and support our students and their future. The NWT is diverse culturally and geographically. Financial restrictions have created a problem that the government must address and change.

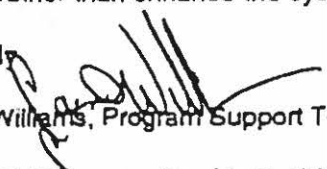
In order to make changes to correct the problems of over crowded classrooms, lack of resource material and qualified specialist support personal our government needs to look at providing the necessary funding now so that our students have the opportunity to achieve their full potential, rather that become a drop-out statistic or worse.

This situation must not be allowed to continue. We must provide the children across the territories with the best learning environment possible for them to develop educationally, emotionally, socially, to become the next leaders. There are students in our classrooms who are potential leaders. We cannot bring this quality forwarding crowded classrooms without resources. It is frustrating to see the need for certain programs but not be able to address those needs.

As a Program Support Teacher , I work with students who have various learning difficulties. These students experience frustrations which in many cases are leading to aggressive and violent outbursts. It pains me to hear that the government has a surplus due to a deficit reduction plan yet is unwilling to use that surplus to enhance the lives of the children who represent our future. Many of the student I work with need very little additional support to reach their potential. I am tapped. I already purchase from my salary many needed materials. I put 12 hour work days. I sit on various community committees which support children and learning. The government must take up this cause as well.

I urge you, a member of the government to take a pro-active approach, "Education is an Investment". It is as important as maintaining a balanced budget. Is the budget really balanced though if many of our children will need to feed off the system rather than enhance the system?

Sincerely,


Camie Williams, Program Support Teacher

cc: Pat Thomas, President, NWTTA
Members of Cabinet
MLAs

KEEWATIN
Divisional Board
of Education



Levi Angmak
Elementary School

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May 25, 1998

Kevin O'Brien
Kivallivik Riding
Legislative Assembly
Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2T0

Dear Mr. O'Brien;

We are writing to you to express our concern with the amount of funding allocated to education over the years. Lack of funding has hurt our education system to the point where it is suffering. Education must be made a priority again and funding must reflect this.

Children in the NWT are not getting the education they deserve because of lack of funding. As a school staff we have experienced the effects of inadequate funding firsthand. Increased class sizes and lack of resources to deliver programs and curricula are hurting our students.

More money must be allocated in the upcoming budget so that our children can receive the best education possible.

We urge you to raise your concerns with Mr. Charles Dent, the Honourable Minister of Education Culture and Employment, as well as the Cabinet and to raise questions during this sitting to ensure that more money is allocated to education in the upcoming budget.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

The Staff of Levi Angmak Ilinniarviialaaq

Signatures of Staff Members

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signatures: Molly Kidnapik, Agna Nauyark, Marie Aulatjut, JUKatsick, Theresa Nibgansi, Wmanghi, Shirley Quilly, John Aluadluat, Blair Hulley, John Aluadluat, Darlene Milbour, John Aluadluat, Peter P. Aulatjut]

To the Ministers and MLA's of the
Government of the Northwest Territories
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Dear Sirs/Mesdames:

RE: EDUCATIONAL INVESTMENT

This letter is written to express my concern over funding of education in the Northwest Territories.

As a teacher in the N.W.T., I am concerned with the reduced material and human resources available for old and new curriculums. The time spent producing material for courses could be spent more productively working with students.

Over the past few years there has been a definite increase in class size which in turn increases the number of special needs students per class. This means less time per student and because special needs students need more of your time, our gifted and middle of the road students get less of the teacher's time. We need more specialists for student support to ensure that the needs of all students in our classrooms are met.

Please make the education of our children the highest priority of this sitting of the Assembly.

Sincerely,

Janet Falk

May 25, 1998

To the Ministers and MLA's of the
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P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Dear Sirs/Mesdames:

RE: EDUCATIONAL INVESTMENT

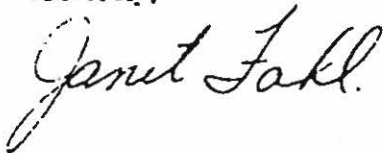
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet Fahl".

May 25, 1998

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheila Cook". The signature is written in dark ink and is slanted slightly to the right.

May 25, 1998

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Sincerely,

Mrs Linda Dumais

May 25, 1998

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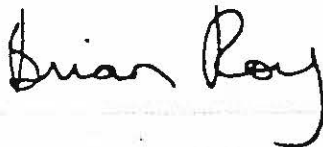
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May 25, 1998

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P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Dear Sirs/Mesdames:

RE: EDUCATIONAL INVESTMENT

We are writing to you to express our concerns with the amount of funding allocated for education over the past years. Education has not been a priority, and as a result the education of our children is suffering.

Over the years, as classroom assistants, we have watched and experienced first hand the effects of inadequate funding. Class sizes have increased, resources are unavailable to deliver programs, and support for many students in need is simply not available.

More funding is needed so our children get the best education possible.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Sharon Hile
~~Sharon~~

Erna Williams
Be Tybring
Wendy Morgan
Cathy Gray
~~Sharon~~

May 25, 1998

