

Inuujaq School
Arctic Bay;
NT XOA OAO

Re Housing or more correctly lack of Housing in Arctic Bay.

What appeared at first as just a suggestion of things to come from our NWT Government, is now escalating into a very real and threatening concern for our teachers and our educational program in Arctic Bay

The Housing issue, which we have to date felt would be resolved by our Government in a sensible and humane manner, has not proven to be handled in a sensitive way and is presenting a very real threat to our educational program in Arctic Bay. Suddenly faced with a sale or dropping of lease, staff are reacting in fear that they'll suddenly be forced to move out of their present "homes". Although reassurance has been given that those who are in these houses may remain beyond the 90 day limit, they are then faced with the question of:

Where do we go from here?

Here's the situation :

Six houses in Arctic Bay are "Government" houses. Eight of the Inuujaq staff live in five of these houses: Stephen and Cheryl McGraw, Iga Muckpa, Ann and Blake Seward, Steve Parks and Matthew Brown and Sara Nagmalik. In Harper "leased" houses are myself and in the other, Chris Irvine.

We already know that there are community members interested in purchasing three of the Gov't houses. I hope to meet with Kenn Harper, the owner of three government leased houses, to see if he will rent (or sell) his units to the present tenants.

If these houses are sold, there are no other housing units available in Arctic Bay. The Housing Association of Arctic Bay has a shortage of units already and will have none available. Where will teachers live ?

As principal, I am very concerned that I will be unable to hire new staff for lack of housing ! The school's program will suffer and the children of this community will not get the education to which they are entitled. To whom does the responsibility fall?
Where does the Buck stop ?

Assuming that many of the present southern staff resign or request transfers to NWT locations with housing, there will be no units here for staff for Inuujaq School teachers.
What is there to be done to resolve this issue ?
We need some answers and we need those answers soon.

Yours truly,

Lawrie Barton
Principal



