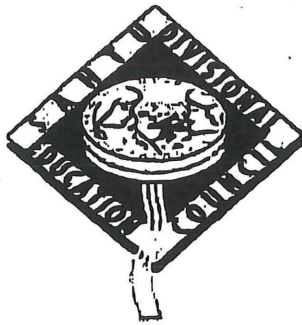


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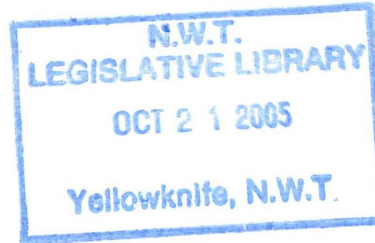
Karen Balanuik

C. NY

Chairperson**Sahtu Divisional Education Council**

October 20, 2005

The Honourable Charles Dent, Minister
Education, Culture & Employment
Government of the Northwest Territories
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT
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Dear Mr. Dent:

COLVILLE LAKE SCHOOL

On behalf of the Sahtu Divisional Education Council I would like to express our concern about the lack of adequate space and facilities at the Territorial School in Colville Lake. The Council was pleased and enthusiastic about the success of the school program, which culminated in its first ever graduation ceremony last Spring. However, enrolment has more than doubled over the past seven years and this has caused serious concerns about the inadequate space provided to carry out the school program, and the hazardous conditions that fail to provide for the safety, health and comfort of the students and education staff.

The school building is overcrowded with 36 students from Kindergarten to Grade 12, and five full-time education staff members working together in essentially "one-room". In order to provide adequate space for the school program, classes have been conducted in the entryway or boot room in recent years. The honey bucket is also located in this area in a 'closet' so that students are not required to visit the 'out-house' in the cold and the dark.

Our Council is alarmed that the capital plan to add classroom space has been constantly delayed and downgraded due to other "more urgent" requirements. The situation in Colville Lake School must be addressed immediately by the Government to provide adequate space for the students to learn in a comfortable, healthy, and safe environment.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Karen Balanuik

cc: Seamus Quigg, Superintendent
Colville Lake, District Education Authority