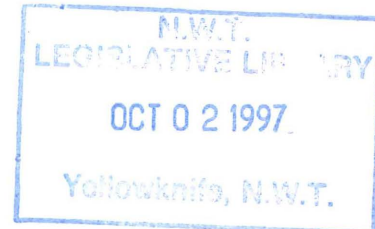




EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 102-13(4) TABLED ON OCT 01 1997.

Petition tabled by Mr. Miltenberger on May 28, 1997



Response by the Honourable John Todd
Chairman of the Financial Management Board

OVERDUE SETTLEMENT ALLOWANCE TO UNIONIZED EMPLOYEES

There are no overdue settlement allowances owed to unionized employees.

During the 1994/95 Collective Bargaining with the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association, a revised settlement Allowance schedule was negotiated for teachers. Effective January 1, 1995, a similar Settlement Allowance Schedule was implemented for non unionized employees.

During the 1994/95 collective bargaining, the Union of Northern Workers' (UNW) rejected the GNWT's proposal for similar revisions to the Settlement Allowance Schedule for employees in the bargaining unit that it represents. The UNW had a proposal for revisions to the Settlement Allowance schedule in the Collective Agreement.

This matter, along with other outstanding matters, was referred to Interest Arbitration, the process in place at the time for resolving collective bargaining disputes. It remained outstanding through the negotiation process for the current collective agreement in which bargaining unit employees voted to accept the GNWT's proposal to drop Settlement Allowance and Vacation Travel Assistance and introduce the Northern Allowance.

The GNWT then communicated to the arbitrators and the Public Service Alliance of Canada (UNW's bargaining representative) that the employees' acceptance of the Northern Allowance resolved the outstanding interest arbitration settlement allowance issue and a decision from the arbitrators was not necessary. In March 1997, the arbitrators confirmed the GNWT's position thus closing the matter.

Petition tabled by Mr. Krutko on June 3, 1997

Response by the Honourable Kelvin Ng
Minister of Health and Social Services

**Funding Cuts Made by the Government of the
Northwest Territories to the Inuvik Regional Health Board**

The Department of Health and Social Services has not reduced its funding for the Inuvik Region Mental Health Project.

Six communities in the Inuvik region were funded for a three year Mental Health Pilot Project, from 1994 to 1997. It was initially decided that no funds would be available to continue this project after April 1, 1997. As the program was deemed effective, the Department of Health and Social Services and the Inuvik Regional Health Board (IRHB) continued to provide their share of the funding. However the third principal funding partner was unable to continue their share of the funding in 1997.

Faced with a reduction in the money available for this project, the IRHB has had to make some difficult allocation decisions within their limited resources. I am confident that further discussions between the communities and the IRHB will successfully address the needs and priorities of the residents.

The Department recognizes the benefit communities have gained from the three-year pilot project for mental health which provided mental health worker positions. These workers have played an important role in ensuring the well-being of community residents, and should be commended for their successes.

I would like to reassure you that the well-being of communities continues to be a primary concern of the Department. We are committed to supporting regions and empowering communities in providing optimal levels of services, with the greatest amount of flexibility, within existing resources.

Petition tabled by Mr. Steen on June 3, 1997

Response by the Honourable Charles Dent
Minister of Education, Culture and Employment

Preservation of Innuinaktun Language

As background to the discussion of language use it is important to review the history of development of standardized orthography and syllabics in Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun and Inuvialuktun.

In December, 1973, the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada (ITC) proposed an Inuit Language Commission be established to study the development of a writing system that would accurately reflect each dialect and yet be standardized enough to permit written communication across dialects. At the request of ITC, a meeting attended by a group of resource people was held in Ottawa to discuss the wide range of issues pertaining to Inuktitut and to propose terms of reference for the Commission. This group of people later became the Standing Advisory Committee for the Commission. Based on recommendations from this meeting, principal tasks of the Language Commission were outlined.

In September, 1974, a contract was drawn up between the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and ITC for ITC to undertake the direction of the Language Commission's work. Several working meetings were held with representatives from every major dialect in the NWT, Greenland and Labrador. A survey of the status and language use was conducted as part of the Commissioner's role which led to a major recommendation. A committee called the Technical Orthography Committee was formed for the development of the two writing systems, one in syllabic and one in roman. The Committee sought advice and direction from a wide variety of sources. This included an examination of previous writing systems devised for Canadian Inuit, a comparison and assessment of orthographies used in Greenland and Alaska, as well as from many individuals in Canada known to have a particular interest in the issues relating to Inuktitut orthography.

During the week of August 30, 1976 in Iqaluit, the Standing Advisory and Technical Orthography Committees met with delegates from ITC, the Baffin Inuit Association, the

Labrador Region Inuit Association and the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches. The Northern Quebec Inuit Association could not send a delegate but sent word they would support any decision reached by the group. Considerable publicity was given to the work of the Language Commission at this time. After this ratification session, the Commissions' work was at an end.

It must be emphasized that standardization of orthography does not mean the standardization of language. The dual writing system respects the various dialects.

This writing system is used in schools across the Northwest Territories. In most schools, students who are syllabic users are also taught to use Roman Orthography. Educators felt that students should know and use the new writing system to ensure continuity when transferred to another community or region. This is important for our students as more and more Inuit families are moving to other communities. As well, all educational publications in Inuktitut and/or Inuinnaqtun are written in the new orthography regardless of the dialect they are published in.

Petition tabled by Mr. Ng on June 3, 1997

Response by the Honourable Charles Dent
Minister of Education, Culture and Employment

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