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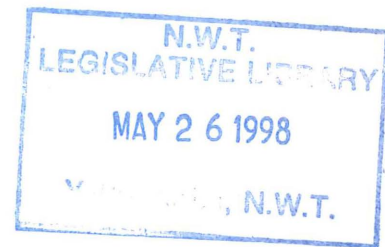


NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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

May 25, 1998

Jake Ootes,
M.L.A. Yellowknife Centre
P.O. Box 1320
Legislative Assembly
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9



Dear Mr. Ootes:

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,

Gary Bohnet, President
Métis Nation NWT



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,

Gary Bohnet, President
Métis Nation NWT

BOMPAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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5/22/98

Mr. Jake Ootes
Legislative Assembly
Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9

Dear Mr. Ootes

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


Carrie Williams, Program Support Teacher

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