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7 Gaetz Drive
Hay River, NT
XOE OR8
May 25, 1998



Mrs. Jane Groenewagen
Hay River Constituency
Legislative Assembly
Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Dear Jane:

I am writing you in order to encourage your support for Public Education. The current situation in our schools is not acceptable. The lack of funding is playing havoc with the lives of our students and teachers.

LACK OF PERSONNEL TO DO THE JOB: Classes have become larger with a wider variety of abilities in them. There are fewer assistants to help with the slower as well as gifted children. In fact, gifted children really survive on their own. Our middle achievers are falling through the cracks. Generally, for no fault of the student or teacher, our students are not getting the education they deserve. The class of Grade 8 Language Arts students I teach has a wide ability range in it and I have an assistant for one period out of a four-day cycle. It is a frustrating exercise as I do not get to spend much quality time with some of my students during the week.

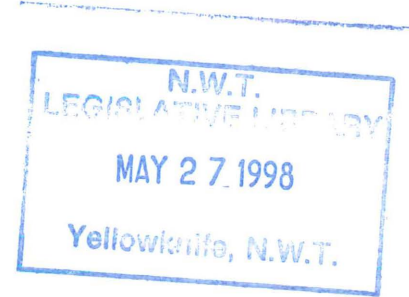
LACK OF RESOURCES TO DO THE JOB: Teachers are teaching courses with little or no material to do so. I am teaching a Language Arts course with a literature textbook. We do not have funding to purchase material for the writing, grammar, or spelling part of the course. Consequently, I am making all my own material. We only have 3000 copies that we can copy on our xerox, so I am printing all the material on my own printer. This is a costly and time-consuming exercise (I very rarely am in bed before 1 p.m.). This situation causes stress. Over the past 3 or 4 years we have had more staff off because of stress than in all of my 27 years of teaching.

BEHAVIOR OF STUDENTS: Lack of funding, a wide range of abilities, lack of the proper material, and a lack of time to prepare causes other problems also. Teachers get tired; students act out. The behavior in our classes is deteriorating to such an extent it is scary. When I listen to the problems in Unites States, I wonder how long before this happens in Canada and in the N.W.T. Unfortunately, this behavior is not confined to the school. Our business people complain about student behaviour in their shops and on the street.

Our students deserve a better future where they are well-rounded individuals. Good students make for a better future for the N.W.T. also. What happens to our students affects us all. Please remember this when the Assembly sets the Education budget.

Sincerely,

Pat Burnstad, Teacher
Diamond Jenness Secondary School



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

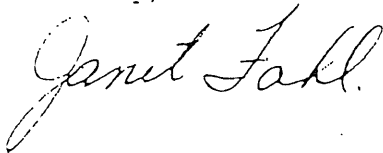
This letter is written to express my concern over funding of education in the Northwest Territories.

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,



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

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Mrs Linda Dumais

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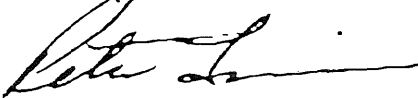
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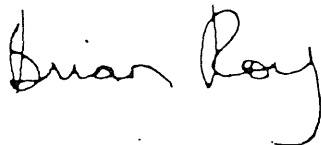
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We are writing to you to express our concerns with the amount of funding allocated for education over the past years. Education has not been a priority, and as a result the education of our children is suffering.

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
Alison

Emma Williams
Bruce Tybring
Kendy Morgan
Cathy Gray
Alison

May 25, 1998