

February 3rd, 2006.

The Honourable Charles Dent, Minister
Department of Education, Culture & Employment,
Government of the NWT
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Re: Concerns regarding proposed Funding Changes & Secondary Students

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us recently to discuss your plans to reduce by fifty percent the current Departmental practice of fully funding all secondary students over the age of 22 years. We understand the change is contemplated to allow the GNWT to fund full-time kindergarten programs.

As we discussed, this proposed change causes grave concern to the leadership in the Tlicho region. For many years, our leadership, the businesses and industries in the Moulwi region have encouraged people to go back to school so that they could learn the necessary prerequisite skills to take trades and other training for employment. For the past decade, our people have heard this message and gone back to school in large numbers and as you know, many of our grade 12 graduates continue to be "students" who are over the age of 22 years. The change of this funding practice would be a great financial loss to our secondary school programs, and consequently a severe blow to adult students who do not have any other educational alternatives in our communities.

We also believe that such a major change in funding with such major consequences to well-established programming should only be developed through a process of active consultation with our Agency, the Tlicho leadership, and the stakeholders in our communities. As this has not happened, we would like to ask the Government of the NWT to not implement such a funding change in the Tlicho region at this time. In making this request, we would also like to assure the Minister that we have no intention of asking for the implementation of full day kindergarten programs in our schools in 2006-2007.

We appreciate your willingness to consider other options expressed at our meeting and hope that we can continue to work together collaboratively for the best educational programming for the people in our communities.

Sincerely,

Alfonz Nisiza, Chairperson
Tlicho Community Services Agency

c.o. George Mackenzie, Grand Chief, Tlicho Government
c.c. Jackson Lafferty, MLA, Moulwi Region



Tlicho Community
Services Agency

Bag 5, Rae-Edzo NT

X0E 0Y0

Phone: 867-392-3000

Fax: 867-392-3001

E-mail: tcea@edograb.nwt

Child and Family
Services

Phone: 867-392-3005

Education Programs

Phone: 867-392-3000

Health Programs

Phone: 867-392-3005

Dq Nāke Lanl Nāts'etso
Strong Like Two People