



DEHCHO DIVISIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

Box 376, Fort Simpson, N.W.T. X0E 0N0

September 29, 2006

Honourable Joseph Handley
Premier
Government of the NWT
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9

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

Dear Premier Handley and Minister Dent

This year in the Dehcho we have again been met with very significant challenges in regards to accommodation for our staff. In several of our communities there is simply no housing for our new employees. We had one new employee in Fort Liard actually leave after two days over housing issues. In Fort Simpson our Superintendent reports that new staff, from other departments contacted him seeking assistance in finding a suitable home and if none can be found they would have to leave. There is one new nurse living a motor home in the parking lot! In Fort Providence two families had to be moved out of housing due to mould. These situations are simply unacceptable.

Our staff, at both the district and community levels have exhausted every avenue to identify housing for staff and are quite frustrated. Regardless of whether or not the Government wants to recognize this *there is a housing crisis*. If the GNWT is not prepared to accommodate your staff then we would certainly appreciate some suggestions as to what we can do as a Council to resolve the growing crisis. We cannot build stability in our workforce if we cannot ensure adequate accommodation.

We look forward to your response and ideas on how to resolve this matter.

Mahsi Cho,

Martina Norwegian
Chairperson

c. Kevin Menicoche MLA
Minister Michael McLeod
Trustees

