



Inuit Education Accord

WHEREAS Inuit in Canada share a common history, culture, and language, and face a common challenge of creating education systems that compare favourably to the education standards available to other Canadians;

AND WHEREAS Inuit believe that education systems that are designed from the Inuit societal and cultural worldview and delivered in the Inuit language will lead to better educational outcomes for Inuit;

AND WHEREAS Inuit, their partner organizations, and government representatives gathered in Inuvik, Northwest Territories in April 2008 at a National Summit on Inuit Education;

AND WHEREAS participants at the National Summit on Inuit Education identified existing successes and persistent gaps in Inuit education;

AND WHEREAS with the settlement of land claims in the four Inuit regions, and the recent conclusion of the residential school settlement, there is an unprecedented opportunity to create a new era in Inuit education that closes the gap on educational outcomes for Inuit relative to all Canadians;

AND WHEREAS participants to the Summit on Inuit Education agreed that the future of Inuit education would benefit significantly from a national partnership among Inuit, their partner organizations and partner governments, with a common purpose and desired outcomes;

NOW THEREFORE parties to this Inuit Education Accord agree to the following:

Vision

Inuit working in partnership with their partner organizations and governments to achieve educational outcomes for Inuit children comparable to all other Canadians, without sacrificing culture and language to do so.

Purpose of the Accord

To establish a National Committee on Inuit Education for the purposes of developing a National Strategy on Inuit Education.

Objectives of the Accord

The objectives of this Inuit Education Accord are as follows:

- To establish a National Committee on Inuit Education made up of representatives from Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, its member organizations, federal government partners and governments in the four Inuit regions.
- Building on the results of the National Summit on Inuit Education, to develop a National Strategy on Inuit Education.
- To address, through the National Strategy on Inuit Education, the core issues of: bilingual education, capacity building and recognition, parent and partner mobilization, Inuit centred curriculum and teaching approaches, best practices in strengthening programming and research in Inuit education.
- To provide clear delineation of roles and responsibilities and accountabilities of the parties to the Strategy.

Principles

The work of the National Committee on Inuit Education will reflect the following principles:

- Cooperative and collaborative approaches.
- Open, transparent processes.
- Results oriented goals and measurable obligations.

Administration

1. The parties will establish a National Committee on Inuit Education within 60 days of the signing of this Accord.
2. The National Committee on Inuit Education will develop a plan and process for the development of a National Strategy on Inuit Education.
3. The National Strategy on Inuit Education will be developed within 1 year of the appointment of the National Committee on Inuit Education. The National Strategy will be submitted to each party for endorsement.
4. The National Committee on Inuit Education will meet in person a minimum of two times and as desired by teleconference to review and report on progress.

5. The National Committee on Inuit Education will provide regular reports to Ministers of Education in the Inuit regions, federal partners, and the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami Board of Directors.
6. The resource implications resulting from the Accord will be examined and addressed by the parties to this Accord.
7. Member organizations of the National Committee on Inuit Education will be asked to appoint representatives to this Committee within 60 days of signing.

Saving Provision

Nothing in this accord creates any legal rights or obligations.

Term of the Accord

This Accord shall be in effect for a period of 1 year from the date of signing. Upon written consent this Accord may be renewed for a further term as agreed by the Parties.

Signatories

Signed this 2nd day of April in 2009.

Mary Simon, President, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Minister of Education, Government of Nunavut

Pita Atami, President, Makivik Corporation

Jim Lyall, President, Nunatsiavut Government

Paul Kaludjak, President, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.

Nelle Cournoyea, Chair/Chief Executive Officer, Inuvialuit Regional Corp.

Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Government of Northwest Territories

Rhoda Innuksuk, President, Pauktuutit

Jesse Mike, President, National Inuit Youth Council

Duane Smith, President, Inuit Circumpolar Council-Canada