

ITK Resolution Re: Education

WHEREAS Inuit in Canada share common values and face common challenges respecting the education of Inuit children;

AND WHEREAS the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami Board of Directors (the Board) believes that Inuit parents across Canada must be able to exercise their right to a high quality Inuktitut language education for their children, equal to educational standards in southern Canada, rooted in *Inuit Qaujmajatuqangit* and controlled by local Inuit;

AND WHEREAS the Board is committed to Inuit children graduating from high school fully bilingual in Inuktitut and one or more of English and French and believes that, in order to achieve this, Inuktitut must be the main language of instruction in our schools;

AND WHEREAS the ITK *National Strategy on Inuit Education* recommends, among other things, increasing the numbers of Inuktitut-speaking educators and Inuit-centred curriculum;

AND WHEREAS Article 14 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the 10<sup>th</sup> Call to Action of the *Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission* recognize the importance of Indigenous peoples' control of our education, in our own language, with culturally appropriate curricula, in a manner appropriate to our culture and with adequate resources and funding;

AND WHEREAS Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. has advocated for the withdrawal of Bill 37 of the Nunavut Legislative Assembly because the proposed amendments to the *Nunavut Education Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*:

- were not developed with adequate participation of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. as required by Article 32 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and Inuit Constitutional rights;
- fail to recognize the urgency required to address the Inuktitut language crisis in Nunavut schools;
- do not include timelines for Inuktitut language of instruction based on a Department of Education Inuit Employment Plan agreed with NTI, including urgently needed timelines, targets and adequate identified funding for training and employment of Inuit educators, principals, administrators and bureaucrats; and
- reduce Inuit control of education;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Nunavut's Standing Committee on Legislation is recommending that Bill 37 be withdrawn;

AND WHEREAS the Board believes that all voting members of the National Inuit Committee on Inuit Education should be Inuit-controlled organizations;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. ITK continue to advocate forcefully and publicly for Inuit rights respecting control of education and Inuktitut language of instruction, and, specifically, states its full support to NTI for the withdrawal of Bill 37 and its replacement with amendments to be developed with NTI in accordance with Inuit rights under Article 32 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and the *Constitution Act 1982*;
2. ITK take the necessary steps to provide that public governments will be non-voting members of the National Inuit Committee on Inuit Education; and
3. ITK relay this resolution immediately to all members of the Nunavut Legislative Assembly.