



# Nunavut Teachers' Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RE: 2017 Nunavut Teacher Education Program (NTEP) Report

## **Nunavut Teachers' Association lied to regarding secretly shelved NTEP report**

The Nunavut Teachers' Association was very disappointed to learn, from local media, about the shelved report from a review of the NTEP program, completed in 2017.

**“The NTA, along with other stakeholders, have been inquiring about the status of the NTEP review since November 2017. The consistent response from the bureaucratic leadership at the Department of Education headquarters, throughout many changes in senior personnel, has been that the NTEP review is still ongoing.”**

**“During the consultation process for proposed Education Act amendments in October 2018, the NTA made inquiries during our submission on the status of the NTEP review. Department officials stated to us that the NTEP review was ongoing and not completed. This was a complete falsehood, which has been perpetuated under the current Department leadership.”**

- **John Fanjoy, NTA President**

NTA has endeavoured, on numerous occasions, to assist with various aspects of the NTEP program. We consider ourselves to be a stakeholder in Nunavut's Education system. We had a representative take part in a committee tasked with designing a Middle Years component of the NTEP program, this program was designed and had student applications, but it was never launched.

NTA has advanced a proposal for a staff position, funded from the NTA Professional Development Fund. This new hire would focus on recruitment of Inuit into the NTEP program, and support recent NTEP graduates as they work through their probationary period as teachers. These first years of a teacher's career are vital to keeping Inuit educators working in our system. Officials at the Department of Education refused to agree to such a position being funded out of the NTA PD Fund. This has been proposed more than once, including to the current leadership at Department Headquarters. This plan has always been turned down, and the reason given has been that the Department of Education had their own recruitment plan in place. We now know through recent media coverage, that there has not been a plan in place on



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the part of the Department of Education to recruit Inuit to become educators, nor is there a plan to support Inuit educators to remain teaching within our system. An effective NTEP program, and support for NTEP graduates as they begin their careers, should be an essential aspect of addressing teacher turnover in Nunavut.

We have many important questions that the Department of Education has been either unwilling, or unable to address. Why was this report shelved? Why has this report been hidden by the Department of Education?

The Department of Education continues to commission outside organizations to complete studies and reports on important aspects of our Education system, such as Safety in Schools, an overall vision for the Department of Education, and other topics. How much have these reports cost taxpayers? Are there other reports that have been paid for, completed, and not released?

This leaves perhaps the most fundamental question. What is the Department of Education's current plan to recruit and retain NTEP students and graduates within our K – 12 school system, in order to meet the bilingual education targets outlined in Bill 25?

This is a question that we urge the public to hold the Department accountable for as Bill 25 is considered.

For further information or questions, contact:

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