

**Department of Education, Culture and Employment Response to the  
Standing Committee on Government Operations  
Committee Report 6-16(5) on the Review of the Report of the Auditor General  
on Education in the Northwest Territories**

The Standing Committee on Government Operations conducted a review of the Auditor General of Canada's report, *Education in the Northwest Territories – 2010: Department of Education, Culture and Employment* and released its report on November 1, 2010.

**Committee Recommendation 1:**

**The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment accept all of the Auditor General's recommendations and proceed with its action plan to address them.**

**ECE Response:**

- The Department is committed to addressing all of the Auditor General's recommendations and will continue to move forward in the implementation of its Action Plan.

**Committee Recommendation 2:**

**The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the planned evaluation of the Early Childhood Development program include a review of both the strengths and weaknesses of outcomes of programming. This evaluation should also identify performance indicators and provide a means to collect information on them at entry to kindergarten. This information could be used for ongoing monitoring and reporting to support and provide direction for the Early Childhood Development program.**

**ECE Response:**

- The Department has begun its evaluation of the Framework for Action, Early Childhood Development. In this evaluation, the Department will review the strengths and weaknesses of outcomes of current programming.
- This evaluation will include:
  - A review of current programming,
  - Consultations with stakeholders, and
  - An increase in monitoring of data through the further development of a tracking and reporting function within the Department's Case Management Administration System (CMAS).

- The Department is in the process of implementing the Early Development Instrument (EDI) as a means to collect additional critical data.
- The Department is also investigating the usefulness of implementing the Nipissing District Developmental Screen to identify additional performance indicators that should be reported on.
- It is anticipated that the evaluation of the Framework will be completed in October 2011. Results of the evaluation will be used to support and provide direction for the Early Childhood Development program.

**Committee Recommendation 3:**

**The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment review both the Aboriginal Language and Culture-Based Education directive and the inclusive schooling directive in order to identify the strengths and weaknesses of both initiatives.**

**ECE Response:**

- The Department is currently consulting with superintendents and other education partners on the review of the directives.
- The reporting requirements for the Aboriginal Language and Culture Based Education Directive are currently under review. Revised requirements are expected to be in place for June 2012.
- The Department's next priority is the review of the Inclusive School Directive.

**Committee Recommendation 4:**

**The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment report performance according to major categories such as education council, ethnicity, and gender, with a recognition that it may sometimes be necessary to aggregate data to protect the privacy of individual students.**

**ECE Response:**

- The Department completed consultations with the education authorities in December 2010 to determine whether additional performance categories could be provided in future editions of Towards Excellence reports.
- As a result of these consultations, the Department will include additional performance indicators based on ethnicity and gender in future Towards Excellence reports.

- After consultation with the education authorities, it was concluded that the current practice of reporting performance according to the major category of communities, regional centres and Yellowknife provides for more useful comparisons than using the category of education councils.

**Committee Recommendation 5:**

**The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that when the Department of Education, Culture and Employment plans and designs a new program or initiative, it identifies the means to be used to assess, measure, and report on the program or initiative.**

**ECE Response:**

- The Department is committed to ensuring that when planning and designing a new program or initiative, it will identify the means to be used to assess, measure, and report on the program or initiative.

**Committee Recommendation 6:**

**The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment provide periodic updates on the progress of the implementation of the Auditor General's recommendations through status reports to the Standing Committee on Social Programs.**

**ECE Response:**

- The Department responded to the Auditor General's Report in November 2010.
- The Department will continue to provide periodic updates on the progress of the implementation of the Auditor General's recommendations through additional status reports to the Standing Committee on Social Programs.

**Committee Recommendation 7:**

**The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a comprehensive response to this report within 120 days.**

**ECE Response:**

- The current document forms the Department's comprehensive response within the 120 day deadline.