

## RESPONSE TO PETITION

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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Petition tabled by Mr. Shane Thompson on October 20, 2016

Response by the Honourable Alfred Moses

Minister of Education, Culture and Employment

### **Funding for Education Authority Governance Workshops**

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) works closely with all Education Bodies to ensure that they are aware of and understand the authority that is delegated to them through the *Education Act*. The *Education Act* provides communities with more independence to develop educational programming in the JK-12 system so that the culture and language of each community can be reflected in its school(s). Education Boards and Superintendents are given the abilities to ensure that they can draft their budget, based on ECE allocations, to ensure that they have appropriate and applicable training for their members.

In 2016, ECE worked with Education Bodies across the Northwest Territories to develop the 2016-17 District Education Authority Handbook. The Handbook outlines the governance structure, roles and responsibilities and legislative authority for Education Bodies. Further to developing the Handbook, ECE staff have traveled to regional centers to deliver training to Education Bodies both in-person and via videoconferencing. These training sessions included: Governance Structure, the difference between governance and administration, Conflict Resolution Training, Policy Development, Strategic and Financial Planning, and How to Run Effective Meetings.

Alongside offering training sessions for Education Bodies, ECE staff work with Superintendents directly to support the development of internal training and strategic planning initiatives for board staff.

ECE regularly engages with Superintendents in modifying the school funding formulas. These funding formulas create a framework and understanding of how schools are allocated their funding every year. Education Bodies then work to develop their own budgets based on the agreed upon allocation methodology between the boards and ECE.

Education Bodies work directly with ECE for training opportunities and to understand their role in the overarching Northwest Territories Education System. There is a mutual understanding that by working together ECE and the Education bodies can build capacity and develop and care for the next generation of Northwest Territories students.

ECE has also developed the Skills 4 Success 10-Year Strategic Framework (Framework), with the vision, "NWT residents have the skills, knowledge and attitudes for employment success".

The Framework identifies four fundamental goals with priorities designed to develop NWT residents' skills through education and training, close education and employment gaps through streamlined supports, address recruitment and retention challenges, and provide reliable labour market data for informed decision making.

The Skills 4 Success initiative is designed to prepare for the future. It is about improving employment success for NWT residents by closing skill gaps for in-demand jobs, and more effectively responding to employer, industry and community needs. It is part of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) mandate and addresses the Legislative Assembly's strategic priority to foster lifelong learning, skills development, training and employability.

ECE will continue to work collaboratively with Education Bodies to ensure that the department can provide training and learning opportunities. This work will better align school strategic direction to give students the best supports available and ensure success through the NWT education system.

Even during times of fiscal restraint, the GNWT is committed to continue focusing on education and the development of our education bodies to better support our children. Through continued collaboration and the streamlining of processes, ECE and Education Bodies can support one another while developing capacity and ensuring a sound and effective governance structure for all.