

CHAPTER 6

Strengthening the Legislation

Clarity, accountability and filling in the gaps

The following proposed changes were not addressed in Chapters 1-5 of this document, but are important aspects of the updated legislation.

Coalition of Nunavut District Education Authorities (CNDEA)

The CNDEA was created in 2008 in response to a call for more collective representation for the DEAs in the education system. The CNDEA has a number of roles and responsibilities assigned to them in the current Act. What is certain is that the CNDEA will continue to play a role in the updated legislation. However, this role should be modified and refocused to better reflect the strengths of the organization and the practical realities of education delivery. This means that lines of accountability must be clarified where possible and realigned to improve communication and advocacy. Further, the priorities of the Coalition must be restructured to ensure the maximum benefit for DEAs, as well as to have a focused, positive impact on the system overall. The parameters of the CNDEA's restructured role and the related responsibilities will be guided significantly by feedback received during public consultation. Redefining the roles and responsibilities of the CNDEA will establish an improved and more targeted impact on the delivery of education for the Coalition.

Clarity in the *Education Act*

Definitions, as well as grammatical, typographical, syntactical and similar errors within the current Act, will be corrected where needed. Some provisions will be redrafted as required to provide for clarity and ease of use, and to remove ambiguities.

Appointments/re-appointments of principals and vice-principals

It is proposed that changes to the appointments or reappointments for principals and vice-principals be for a maximum five-year term, instead of the current three-year term. Appointments of principals and vice-principals who have not yet received certification, but who have undertaken to take specified steps to do so, per the exception set in section 112(3) of the Act, will also have a maximum five year term.

Programs of moral and spiritual instruction

The new legislation will make it clearer that programs of moral and spiritual instruction are restricted from promoting or indoctrinating a particular religious viewpoint. Such programs will provide a historical perspective only. School staff and DEAs will also be restricted from promoting or indoctrinating a particular religious viewpoint outside programs of moral and spiritual instruction, including but not limited to in other classes, after school programming, on the land programming, local and community programming developed by DEAs, counselling by Innait Inuksiutilirijiit, during assemblies and during Parent-Teacher Association meetings. For clarity, the teaching and learning of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit will not be prohibited by this provision.