

## Territories

R(16)644

### Minister Lafferty Tables Aboriginal Student Achievement Status Report

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 17, 2011)** –The Aboriginal Student Achievement (ASA) Status Report was tabled yesterday by Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty.

“Our long-term goal of developing and implementing a territorial education plan to bridge the achievement gap between Aboriginal and other students is receiving constant support from Aboriginal governments as well as community and education leaders,” says Lafferty.

The report outlines the Education Plan and common concerns from the Minister’s Regional Forums, which focused on improving education outcomes for Aboriginal students across the NWT. The forums were held throughout the 2010-11 school year, and included discussions on priority areas such as: early childhood and child care, student and family support, Aboriginal language and resource development, and literacy.

During the forums, all leaders expressed solid support for the priorities. Each region offered a unique perspective and specific ideas on how the four priorities could be supported locally.

There was collective agreement around building community connections and increasing Aboriginal languages and culture in the education system. Another common theme was recognizing that the entire community plays an important role in raising our children.

On Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, Aboriginal government and education leaders from each region will meet in Yellowknife to talk about their vision for the future of education and learning in the NWT. This is the first time leaders from all regions are coming together to have this discussion. The final report will be tabled in the August 2011 session.

The ASA Status Report is posted on *What’s New at ECE* at [www.ece.gov.nt.ca](http://www.ece.gov.nt.ca) or contact:

**Amy Doerksen**

Manager, Public Affairs  
Education, Culture and Employment  
Phone: (867) 920-6222

**Ashley Green**

Public Affairs Officer  
Education, Culture and Employment  
Phone: (867) 920-3059

---

**Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:**

Office of the Press Secretary ÉPremier/Cabinet  
Government of the Northwest Territories ÉPO Box 1320 ÉYellowknife ÉNT ÉX1A 2L9  
Tel: (867) 669-2302 ÉFax: (867) 873-0111