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Aboriginal Government and Education Leaders Support Education Partnership Declaration

YELLOWKNIFE (Friday May 27, 2011) – Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), Jackson Lafferty, hosted a meeting with Aboriginal government and NWT education leaders on Aboriginal Student Achievement (ASA) in Yellowknife this week.

“Creating and supporting partnerships is key to building stronger minds and a stronger north,” says Minister Lafferty. “All parties agreed that education is our top priority. We are committed to working together to provide quality education for all students and to eliminate the achievement gap between Aboriginal and other students.”

Minister Lafferty provided leaders with a status report on the ASA Initiative and shared results from the Regional Minister’s Forums. Feedback from the forums confirmed the need to focus on early childhood development and child care, student and family support, Aboriginal language and culture curriculum and resource development and literacy.

Another common message was that everyone plays a part and has responsibilities when it comes to educating our youth. All regional participants expressed the need to support an education system built on strong relationships at the community, regional and territorial level.

“I asked the leaders to join me in signing an Education Partnership Declaration that speaks to the importance of continuing to work together on the Aboriginal Student Achievement initiative. I am happy that all the Aboriginal and education leaders were in agreement, recognizing how powerful our collective voices are in improving our children’s future.”

Minister Lafferty is currently working towards all parties signing the Education Partnership Declaration this summer. The signed Declaration will be included in the Education Plan that the Minister will table, on behalf of the partners in the Legislative Assembly this August.

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

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Tel: (867) 669-2302 • Fax: (867) 873-0111

For more information or to request a picture of leadership meeting participants, please contact:

Amy Doerksen

Manager, Public Affairs
Education, Culture and Employment
Phone: (867) 920-6222
Email: Amy.Doerksen@gov.nt.ca

Ashley Green

Officer, Public Affairs
Education, Culture and Employment
Phone: (867) 920-3059
Email: Ashley.Green@gov.nt.ca

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