



Nunavut Sivuniksavut (NS) Program

Since 1985, the Nunavut Sivuniksavut (NS) Program has been educating and preparing Inuit youth for career opportunities in their home territory of Nunavut. Students accepted into this innovative program experience a unique curriculum that mixes traditional academics with courses focused on their rich, Inuit culture. Additionally, learning is taken beyond the classroom with students gaining valuable independent living skills during their eight-month program based in Ottawa. This program has been a huge success with graduates returning to Nunavut, prepared with the necessary skills and experience for successful post-graduation employment.

Unfortunately, despite its success and the high demand for the program, NS has only been able to accept 22 students per year due to space restrictions in their building and a financial inability to rent a larger space.

That all changed this year...

In 2009, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) and the three Regional Inuit Associations across

Nunavut, announced their financial support to assist NS in purchasing a new building and increasing their program capacity. The four partners committed to providing \$1 million over the next five years. While this support was generous, it was just a start as NS needed about \$3 million to meet the needs of the school.

In May 2010, the Federal Government announced it had funding to support the purchase of a new building for NS; however, the funding couldn't be guaranteed until January 2011. At this time, the perfect building had just come on the market — the first two floors of a commercial condominium building — and likely wouldn't be available for long. With the Federal funds not guaranteed, and banks not able to help out in the meantime, waiting until January for the possible funding to come through would likely see the building sold and this great opportunity missed.

A proud graduate of NS who is employed by Atuqtuarvik Corporation, heard about the

situation and raised it with her employer to see how they could help. Atuqtuarvik Corporation provides loans and equity investments to Inuit-owned businesses in order to develop and grow the Nunavut economy. Knowing the importance of the NS program, Atuqtuarvik Corporation saw this as an opportunity to invest in building the capacity of Nunavummiut for the long-term benefit of the Territory. In addition to the standard business and economic development proposals, Atuqtuarvik Corporation welcomes innovative projects, such as NS, which both support Nunavut residents and the economy.

Within one month, NS submitted a business plan and application form to Atuqtuarvik Corporation, and the Board of Directors approved the proposal. The deal was that if the funding from the Federal Government did not come through, Atuqtuarvik Corporation would purchase the building and NS would rent it from them instead of having to own it themselves. This way, NS would have a larger

building and be able to expand their programs to more Inuit youth.

In early December 2010, NS moved into their new location at 450 Rideau Street in Ottawa and two days later, classes commenced on the second floor of the building. Earlier this year, the Federal Government confirmed their funding to NS. With this money, NS was able to repay their loan to Atuqtuarvik Corporation and even had some funds left over to renovate the building into an ideal setting for the program. Renovations to the first floor of the building were completed throughout the spring and summer and this September, NS opened its doors to an expanded program.

NS is proud to announce that they now have 30 first-year students and 9 second-year students enrolled in the 2011/12 program — almost double the amount of students they previously had! The Program has four full-time teachers, one full-time administrator and two part-time teachers to provide support and tutoring, as well as casual teachers to provide



specific and specialized disciplines in the 2nd year university integration program. If all goes well in this trial expansion year, the Program will expand to 40 first-year students next year.

This innovative program needed an innovative solution — it's nice to see they got one.

For more information on NS, contact Morley Hanson ns@magma.ca or www.nstraining.ca

Congratulations Nunavut Sivuniksavut!

Atuqtuarvik Corporation would like to congratulate the students, staff and board of Nunavut Sivuniksavut on their growth and continued success. 2011 marks the completion of Nunavut Sivuniksavut's new building in Ottawa and the graduation of another class of Nunavut's future leaders.

Continue to let your dreams be as big as the territory they're destined for.

Think Big!



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