

Nunavut Teacher Education Program

Jurisdiction: Nunavut

Contact: Louise Flaherty

Level: Post-Secondary

Theme: Teacher Training Programs

Description of Practice:

The Nunavut Teacher Education Program (NTEP) is headquartered in Iqaluit with the NTEP program itself being offered at the Nunatta (Iqaluit) campus of Nunavut Arctic College. The program provides Inuit students training to become qualified as teachers in Nunavut. The Community Teacher Education Program (CTEP) provides teacher training, following the NTEP curriculum, at the community level outside the program center of Iqaluit. This enables students to stay in their community with the support of their family and the opportunity to do their practica in the school where they will be teaching. This has been a benefit for the students as they get to know the teaching staff who they will work with as colleagues and they also get familiar with the school culture.

Background:

The Eastern Arctic Teacher Education (EATEP) began in 1979, and an affiliation with McGill University was established in 1981. Initially, NTEP offered a two-year teacher education program culminating in the Certificate in Native & Northern Education from McGill University and certification to teach in the NWT. Graduates of EATEP's two-year program accumulated sixty university level credits in elementary education.

In 1994, NTEP added another academic year to the program. Graduates, who obtained the Certificate in Native & Northern Education, could as well complete a McGill University B.Ed. It then became a four year university program with a total of 120 credits.

In 2004 NTEP added a Foundation Year to make the Program a five Year Program. The majority of our community-based applicants had low academic levels. This fifth Year was created to upgrade them to meet the entrance requirements.

Since 1981, over 130 Inuit students have completed the B.Ed. program while more than 230 completed their Certificate in Native Northern Education/First Nations and Inuit Education. Overall, more than 200 graduates from the NTEP/CTEP programs have been certified as teachers in Nunavut.

Development:

EATEP started our first Community-based programs in Baker Lake, Rankin Inlet and Arviat in 1991. 33 students graduated from the Program. This strategy was designed to make basic professional training available through community-based programs in every region of NWT at the time.

There has been a growing interest in starting a community-based teacher education program in Nunavut. Community-based programs are offered in communities on a rotational basis. It is offered in four communities at a time with single entry year followed through for five years. Iqaluit is our home base with a yearly in-take.

Evidence:

Living in Nunavut is expensive as there are no roads connecting our communities. Having a community-based program has been beneficial as our students do not need to worry about travel costs to go see their families for Christmas or summer breaks. The majority of the students are female students with children, and training in their home communities provides back up childcare as they are surrounded by family and friends. We have had approximately 112 graduates from the communities alone

Adaptability:

When the District Education Authority (DEA) requests to start a program in their home community, they are directly involved in the selection process providing references to the applicants who want to get into the program. When there is a collaborative partnership with the DEA, the school principal, teachers, community instructor, and the adult educators the community-programs run very well through-out the duration of the program. As long as there is funding for our community-based program and the willingness of the students, the programs can be offered successfully in any of our remote Nunavut communities.

Further Information:

Coordinator, Nunavut Teachers Education Program
Phone: 867-979-7253
Fax: 867-979-7105