



June 30, 2008

Mr. John Sims
Deputy Minister and Deputy Attorney General's Office
Justice Canada
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H8

Dear Mr. Sims:

Re: Akitsiraq Law School Program in Nunavut – Phase Two

I am writing to you to urge your continued support of the Akitsiraq Law School Program in Nunavut.

This unique Program was launched in 1999 in partnership with the University of Victoria and allowed 15 Inuit students to undertake a fully-accredited law degree program in Nunavut. Eleven students graduated in 2005. The Akitsiraq Law School Society is now seeking partners to implement the second phase of the Program.

The Canadian Bar Association celebrates the success of the Program. It helped address the serious shortage of legal professionals in Nunavut, and allowed young Inuit to access a rigorous legal education that meets the highest standards of Canadian university law programs. Based on its success, there is strong support to provide a second cohort of Inuit students with the same opportunity.

We were made aware that you recently agreed to support the planning and preparation phase of the program. The CBA commends your decision and urges Justice Canada to grant the needed support to the Akitsiraq Law School Society throughout the subsequent stages of the program.

During the last decade, there have been as few as five full-time resident private sector lawyers, none of whom speak the Inuit language. By providing for professionals with intimate knowledge of the specific challenges facing the residents of Nunavut, this program will allow Inuit to take their rightful place in the administration of justice and government in Nunavut and for the local bar to gain more stability and sustainability.

Thank you again for your support of the Akitsiraq Law School Program. We look forward to your continuing support of this important project.

Yours truly,

(Original signed by Bernard Amyot)

Bernard Amyot



June 30, 2008

Ms Alexina Kublu
Chair, Akitsiraq Law School Society
PO Box 2292
Iqaluit NU X0A 0H0

Dear Ms. Kublu:

Re: Akitsiraq Law School Program in Nunavut – Phase Two

I am writing to support the second phase of the Akitsiraq Law School Program in Nunavut.

The Canadian Bar Association celebrates the success of this unique Program. It helped address the serious shortage of legal professionals in Nunavut, and allowed young Inuit to access a rigorous legal education that meets the highest standards of Canadian university law programs. We commend your initiative to provide a second cohort of Inuit students with the same opportunity and urge partners to offer you their full support.

The CBA is dedicated to improving and promoting access to justice throughout Canada and to ensuring equality within the legal profession and respect for the rights of minorities. The Akitsiraq Law School Program offers an opportunity to demonstrate our collective commitment to improving legal access in rural and remote areas of our country while enabling minorities to access the legal profession. We note that during the last decade, there have been as few as five full-time resident private sector lawyers in Nunavut, none of whom speak the Inuit language. By providing for professionals with intimate knowledge of the specific challenges facing the residents of Nunavut, your program will allow Inuit to take their rightful place in the administration of justice and government in Nunavut and for the local bar to gain more stability and sustainability.

The CBA wishes to thank you for your continuing efforts towards increasing access to justice and the respect of minorities in Nunavut.

Yours truly,

(Original signed by Bernard Amyot)

Bernard Amyot