

R(16)272

K’alemi Dene School Opens its Doors in Ndilo

YELLOWKNIFE (September 23) – Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty will join Ndilo community members and the Yellowknives Dene First Nation to celebrate the official Grand Opening of the new K’alemi Dene School on Friday.

The public is also invited to attend the opening ceremony beginning at 11:00am – to be followed by a community fish fry.

The completion of the new school has been eagerly awaited by the community. Its construction has been a community-wide priority and shared by the many students, teachers and community members who have been consulted and engaged in its planning.

“There is an incredible sense of ownership here. This is truly something the entire community helped create,” Minister Lafferty said. “They can see their ideas and input put into action. A child’s education really is a community wide responsibility.”

Last week, approximately 90 students explored the halls and classrooms of the K’alemi Dene School for the first time. The new facility, offering schooling from pre-school to grade 12, boasts 6 classrooms and several facilities including a high tech computer lab and a cultural area that has quickly become the hub of activity in the school. With its wide open space and unique design, the cultural area hosts healthy breakfast and hot lunch programs, as well as drumming lessons and community gatherings.

Designed by Pin Taylor Architects, the school’s distinctive architecture complements the surrounding landscape of Ndilo. In many areas of the school, Canadian Shield rock is incorporated into the layout and a unique nature wall reinforces the important relationship the Dene People have with the Land.

The K’alemi Dene School project was a joint venture involving the Departments of Education, Culture and Employment and Public, Works and Services.

For more information, please contact: **Amy Doerksen**
Manager, Public Affairs
Education, Culture and Employment
Tel: (867) 920-6222

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

Office of the Press Secretary • Premier/Cabinet
Government of the Northwest Territories • PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife • NT • X1A 2L9
Tel: (867) 669-2302 • Fax: (867) 873-0111