

Nunavut Arctic College Continuing Education Policy

POLICY

The Government of Nunavut will provide continuing educational opportunities for adults to enable their full participation in the social, economic, and cultural development of Nunavut.

This policy is based on the following principles:

1. To promote lifelong learning, continuing education will be a part of a continuum of integrated learning opportunities allowing students to continually re-enter the education system to satisfy changing learning needs.
2. Programs will be:
 - (a) designed to provide maximum student accessibility through the reduction of barriers such as distance, cost, and prohibitive entrance requirements;
 - (b) responsive to the needs of business, government, the community, and the individual;
 - (c) designed to be delivered in innovative ways and to incorporate nationally acceptable standards of learning; and,
 - (d) geared towards increasing social/economic independence of students.
3. Training in Native languages will be integrated in continuing education programs, whenever possible.

References

For elaboration of this Policy, refer to the Directive (October 23, 1987)
(Source: Government of Nunavut Policy Manual, 1999)

1987 DIRECTIVE ON CONTINUING EDUCATION

Scope

This Directive applies to all adult residents in Nunavut.

Definitions

The following terms used in this Directive are hereby defined:

1. Adult
For the purposes of this Directive, means a resident of Nunavut seventeen years of age or older.
2. Continuing Education
Means the educational process for adults, ranging from basic literacy to post secondary program, designed to develop the students' abilities, enrich their knowledge, and improve their academic qualifications so that they may realize their full potential.
3. Curriculum
Means the statement of goals and objectives, scope and sequence of skills, and recommended teaching approaches at each level of the continuing education program
4. Private Training Institutions
Means an establishment that provides courses of instruction to develop skills for use in any industrial or commercial occupation or vocation.
5. Local Education Authorities
Means community education committees, societies, and councils.

Provisions

1. Eligibility for Enrollment
In accordance with the Education Act, residents who are seventeen years of age and over are eligible for participation in programs of continuing education.
2. Authority and Accountability
 - (a) Minister
The Minister of Education determines priorities for continuing education, establishes and modifies programs of continuing education, and approves standards for continuing education.
 - (b) Deputy Minister of Education
The Deputy Minister of Education is accountable to the Minister for the development of a consistent, high-quality curriculum for adult basic education and apprenticeship programs, and the evaluation of all continuing education programs to determine effectiveness and efficiency in accordance with the standards approved by the Minister .

(c) Nunavut Arctic College Board of Governors

The Board is responsible for the development of curriculum for technical, vocational, and post secondary programs, and for the provision of effective and efficient programs of continuing education across Nunavut in accordance with the Public Colleges Act.

(d) President Nunavut Arctic College

The President is accountable to the Nunavut Arctic College Board of Governors for the management of programs of continuing education across Nunavut.

(e) Local Education Authorities

Education Authorities may implement complementary programs designed specifically to satisfy local needs with funds provided by the Nunavut Arctic College or the Minister of Education.

3. Roles

(a) Department of Education

The Department of Education will:

- (i) coordinate the analysis of educational and training needs across Nunavut, maintain an inventory of training requirements, and plan educational programs in direct response to needs identified by user groups;
- (ii) negotiate with Federal Government and other agencies to obtain funding to deliver some of the programs identified in (i); and provide the funding available to deliver all, other continuing education programs across Nunavut;
- (iii) develop the curriculum for adult basic education programs;
- (iv) recommend to the Minister the standards to be met by students graduating from all continuing education programs;
- (v) evaluate programs to determine effectiveness and efficiency and to promote high standards in education;
- (vi) cooperate with federal, provincial and territorial agencies to coordinate income support available to students from these sources;
- (vii) cooperate with agencies and institutions which have a role in the provision or the funding of continuing education, such as Federal Government departments and Nunavut Department of Social Services, to promote the most effective use of available funding from all sources, and to plan for the effective implementation of coordinated programming.

(b) Nunavut Arctic College

Nunavut Arctic College will:

- (i) administer and deliver continuing education program through the following mechanisms:
 - Community adult educators
 - College instructors
 - Organizations contracted to provide services;
- (ii) operate Territorial Learning Centres for continuing education programs;
- (iii) provide support services such as counselling, administration, and assessment of learning needs;
- (iv) provide resources for training adult educators to deliver new or revised programs
- (v) develop the curriculum for technical, vocational, and post secondary programs for Nunavut;
- (vi) manage a system of certification for program graduates in accordance with the standards approved by the Minister of Education;
- (vii) provide resources, as made available by the Minister, to deliver continuing education programs across Nunavut.

(c) Local Education Authorities

Local Education Authorities will:

- (i) provide advice to the Department of Education and Nunavut Arctic College on training needs for communities;
- (ii) review the selection of students for programs of continuing education and advise the Department of Education and Nunavut Arctic College on these matters;
- (iii) manage funds provided by the Minister through Nunavut Arctic College for complementary programs designed to satisfy community needs.

(d) Private Training Institutions

Private training institutions and the certificates they award to students will be recognized where the institution is licensed and meets the standards set by the Minister.

4. Continuing Education Programs

Continuing education programs are an integrated part of the education system in Nunavut. These programs are complementary to those of the school system and are designed as part of a lifelong continuum of education accessible to adults at any point.

Continuing education programs are provided in the following categories in accordance with the principles of this policy:

(a) Adult Basic Education

Programs may be delivered across the Nunavut by Nunavut Arctic College.

(i) Basic Literacy Programs

These programs in English, French and indigenous languages are designed to provide adults with skills in learning reading, writing, listening, speaking and mathematics.

(ii) Academic Development Programs

These programs are designed to provide the skills and certification to achieve personal or career goals such as secondary school completion, college preparation, or preparation for employment.

(iii) Employment Readiness Programs

These programs are designed to prepare adults for entry or re-entry into the labour force, or into vocational training. This may include employment and life skills training and employment orientation.

(b) Complementary Programs

Complementary programs administered by Local Education Authorities may be delivered in communities in the following areas:

(i) Personal Development Programs

These programs are designed to help people adapt to their changing environment and ultimately to improve the quality of life for the individual and the community.

Courses in this category include but are not limited to Family Life Education, Food and Nutrition Education, Consumer and Money Management, and Housing Education.

(ii) Community Services Programs

These programs focus on the provision of support to communities in the development of skills required to control their social and cultural environment. This will include working with community groups and to assist communities in adjusting to change.

(iii) Personal Enrichment Programs

These programs are usually conducted in the evening to promote the creative use of time outside of work, to encourage cultural development and appreciation, and to assist students in developing a perspective on social change.

(c) Technical, Vocational and Post Secondary Programs

These programs are delivered primarily from Nunavut Arctic College Campuses and Program Centres, but many are field-based and may be provided in communities across Nunavut.

(i) Introductory Trades Programs

The course work provides students with an introduction to a career in a particular trades area, and in preparation for entry into apprenticeship programs with an employer. There is a heavy concentration of trades theory.

(ii) Apprenticeship Theory Programs

The programs are approved by the Apprentices' and Tradesmen's Qualifications Board of Nunavut, and include courses such as carpentry, heavy equipment mechanics, and plumbing. Such courses constitute a required part of apprenticeship training.

(iii) Vocational Programs

Courses in this are designed to respond specifically to the needs of the labour market, are usually of less than one year in duration, and provide the level of skills required by an individual for entry into a particular occupation. Courses such as clerk typist training, driver training, and guide training are included in this category.

(iv) Diploma Programs

These courses prepare students for employment within the Nunavut labour market at the entry levels for professions such as social work, renewable resource development, and accounting. Other diploma courses preparing students for professions such as teaching constitute the first two years of university program and allow transfer to an affiliated university at program completion.

5. Curriculum Development and Standards

(a) Adult Basic Education

The Department of Education will develop the required standards for programs of adult basic education centrally, and will develop and maintain goals and objectives, scope and sequence of skills, and recommended teaching approaches for a territories-wide system of adult grades one through twelve.

(b) Complementary Programs

Adult educators will have the flexibility to designate and modify programs specifically for the needs of the community.

(c) Technical, Vocational and Post Secondary

Curriculum for programs in Technical, Vocational, and Post Secondary Education will be developed by Nunavut Arctic College.

6. Funding

(a) Adult Basic Education and Complementary Programs

Funding, provided by the Minister, will be based on a formula designed to provide an

equitable level of service across Nunavut, depending upon the needs of individual communities. The formula will include a scale providing for core administrative funding and salaries for adult educators.

(i) Adult Basic Education Programs

Program funding for adult basic education (Basic Literacy, Academic Development, and Employment Readiness) will be the first priority and amounts will be influenced by unemployment levels within the labour force in each affected community, literacy levels, and adult population levels.

(ii) Personal Development and Community Services Programs funding for these programs will be the second priority. Funding will be based on factors such as levels of social assistance in the community, changing social conditions, and levels of literacy

(iii) Personal Enrichment Programs

These will be operated primarily on a user pay basis.

(b) Technical, Vocational and Post Secondary

Funding will be dependent upon the nature of the program and the method of delivery, and will be allocated on a program by program basis by the Minister of Education. Funding priority will be given to programs which best satisfy the needs of the labour market and which prepares graduates to contribute to the economy of Nunavut.

7. Prerogative of Executive Council

Nothing in this Directive shall in any way be construed to limit the prerogative of the Executive Council to make decisions or to take action respecting the provisions of continuing education programs outside the provisions of this Directive.