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Office of Premier P.J. Akeeagok
Hiviliqtip P.J. Akeeagok Havakvingani
Bureau du Premier ministre P.J. Akeeagok

September 25, 2023

Minister's Mandate

Dear Minister Gross,

As Premier of Nunavut, I am writing to confirm your mandate as **Minister of Education (EDU)** and **Deputy Premier**, as well as **Minister responsible for Seniors**. We have agreed that you are responsible for the full range of activities undertaken by your department, including:

- Providing programs and services related to early childhood education, the K-12 school system, and adult learning and literacy that encourage and support life-long learning and self-reliance;
- Incorporating Inuit Societal Values, language and culture into all departmental programs and services; and
- Undertaking specific priority actions and initiatives to enable and support the achievement of our government's mandate, Katujijiluta.

PRIORITY ACTIONS

Katujjiluta represents a set of actions and initiatives in five priority areas:

- Aging with dignity in Nunavut;
- Expanding the housing continuum;
- Enabling health and healing;
- Reinvesting in education; and
- Diversifying our local economies.

We have taken an integrated approach to our priorities, so no department or territorial corporation has lead accountability for all actions in a priority area.

We have agreed that you are accountable for leading the priority actions and initiatives identified below. This includes ensuring aligned and coordinated action across the Government of Nunavut and with our partners, where appropriate.

As a top priority, you have agreed to undertake immediate action on the following:

- Implement the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Agreement, including increasing the number of licenced home daycares, increasing the number of qualified child care workers, providing quality resources to daycares in all official languages, and decreasing parental fees to \$10/day by 2025-26 (ongoing);
- Collaborate with Inuit organizations to develop an ELCC sector development and transformation action plan (2022-23), an ELCC quality framework to develop the fundamental defining features of Inuit-centred early learning (2022-23), and a strategic action plan for ELCC inclusion and equity based on Inuit-centred principles for inclusion and equity (2023-24); and
- Develop a full-day kindergarten pilot project for 2023-24 in five schools across the territory, beginning with capital improvements in 2022-23; assess the pilot project (2024-25); and engage with partners and stakeholders to develop a phased implementation plan for all schools, to begin in 2025-26.

To help guide the future actions of our government, you have agreed to:

- Conduct a comprehensive review of the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students (FANS) program and corresponding legislation to support meaningful program improvements (2022-2024);
- Establish an interdepartmental working group to identify Nunavut's labour market needs and existing education and training programs, and develop a strategy to meet those needs (2022-2024); and
- Review the *Universities and Degree Granting Institutions Act* to identify legislative and regulatory requirements to establish a post-secondary education framework to support the education needs for Nunavut's labour force (2024-2026).

ADDITIONAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

In your role as Deputy Premier, you are responsible for:

- Working closely with me to ensure that our government's mandate is achieved;
- Acting as Premier on my behalf if needed and as assigned; and
- Participating as a member of the Cabinet Committee on Priorities, Planning and Partnerships.

I expect that you will maintain effective and productive relationships with all members of Executive Council, the Chair of the Regular Members' Caucus, and the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly in carrying out your role as Deputy Premier.

In addition to the mandate priorities listed above, you are also accountable as:

- Minister responsible for Seniors
- Chair of the Cabinet Committee on Reinvesting in Education and Training
- Member of the Cabinet Committee on Enabling Health, Healing and Aging

- Member of the Cabinet Committee on Priorities, Planning and Partnerships

As Chair of the Cabinet Committee on Reinvesting in Education and Training, you will enable and ensure cooperation among Ministers and departments on mandate priorities related to reinvesting in education.

WORKING TOGETHER

Katujjiluta is more than the title of our mandate. It is a guiding principle that emphasizes a fundamental shift in how we will work together to achieve the promise of Nunavut. As you address your priorities, I am confident that we will:

- **Work within Cabinet and with Regular Members** to implement our shared mandate;
- **Extend and strengthen partnerships** with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Regional Inuit Organizations to leverage our resources towards a common cause;
- **Build capacity and support increased and enhanced Inuit employment** in the public service; and
- **Demonstrate Inuit societal values and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit** in action to achieve real and lasting change.

Your Deputy Head is accountable for assisting you to meet your commitments and fulfill the responsibilities of your portfolio. You are responsible for providing clear direction to your Deputy Head, including expectations for collaboration and partnerships within and beyond the Government of Nunavut.

I am proud and excited to work with you in developing enduring partnerships and taking coordinated and collaborative action that will improve the daily lives of Nunavummiut and lay strong foundations for our future.

Sincerely,



P.J. Akeeagok
Premier of Nunavut

cc. Jimi Onalik, Deputy Minister and Cabinet Secretary, Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs