

September 8th, 2021

Premier Joe Savikataaq
P.O. Box 2410
Iqaluit, Nunavut
X0A 0H0

Dear Premier Savikataaq,

Thank you for your letter detailing the challenges facing Nunavut. I'm pleased to share more about how a Conservative government will improve life for Nunavummiut. Canada's Conservatives believe in empowering and supporting Northerners, while building the infrastructure needed to truly realise the potential of the Canadian North.

Through Canada's Recovery Plan, a Conservative government will be ready to support the unique housing, infrastructure, and health needs of Nunavut.

To address Nunavut's unique housing and affordability challenges, we will support doubling the residency deduction, which has not increased since 2016, to recognize the rising cost of living in the North. We will also implement a Northern Housing Strategy built on providing the territories with their fair shares of federal housing funding; ensuring that funding is stable and predictable; and working with Indigenous groups including the Inuit, and with resource companies investing in the north to ensure that housing gets built.

On infrastructure, Canada's Conservatives have a vision for a Canadian north that is connected to the rest of our country and the world. Realizing the potential of Canada's North - and the jobs and opportunity for Northerners that will come with it - requires a generational investment in infrastructure.

We will ensure that the territories receive their fair share of infrastructure funding by reserving a funding envelope for them that accounts for the high construction costs in the North. We will address the northern infrastructure gap in housing, telecommunications, transportation, energy, and climate change preparedness. Our plan for Northern infrastructure includes:

- The Grays Bay Port Road Project, connecting Nunavut and the Northwest Territories, via
 - A 230-kilometre all-weather trunk road connecting a port at Grays Bay to an existing ice road from Yellowknife via the Northwest Territories diamond mines; and
 - The only deep-water port on the Northwest Passage to (seasonally) connect the national highway system.
- The Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Line, an Inuit-led project that will deliver renewable energy and broadband service to underserved remote communities while enabling the region's mining sector to flourish.
- Completing the Tuktoyaktuk road and port and pursuing an Arctic Gateway policy across the Canadian North.
- Connecting all of Canada to high-speed Internet by 2025.

Canada's Conservatives further recognize the importance of making significant investments in health care and mental health after coming through the COVID-19 pandemic. As Prime Minister, I will meet with the Premiers within the first 100 days of forming government to propose a new health agreement with the provinces and territories that boosts the annual growth rate of the Canada health transfer to at least six per cent. This will inject nearly \$60 billion into our health care system over the next ten years. We will also improve Nutrition North so that it achieves the goal of ensuring that Northerners have access to affordable healthy food.

A Conservative government will deliver the Canada Mental Health Action Plan, where we will work with the provinces to make significant investments in mental health through the Canada Health Transfer increases with the goal of providing an additional one million Canadians with access to mental health treatment. We will also support innovative approaches to address the crises of mental health and addiction, such as land-based treatment programs developed and managed by Indigenous communities as part of a plan to enhance the delivery of culturally appropriate addictions treatment and prevention services in First Nations communities with high needs.

Furthermore, Canada's Recovery Plan will support the creation of good jobs for Northerners. A Conservative government in Ottawa will give Nunavut its fair share of federal training funds and revive mine training in Nunavut, in partnership with mining companies, to increase employment of Inuit in mining. We will work with governments and communities in Nunatsiavut, Nunavut, Nunavik, and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region to develop community-based marine fisheries, which will help create employment and fight local and regional food insecurity.

My government will also complete devolution, beginning by allowing the territories to set their borrowing limits instead of Ottawa arbitrarily setting limits.

I believe our best days are ahead of us. When Nunavut thrives, the rest of Canada does too. As Prime Minister, I will work tirelessly to restore respect for Northerners and ensure decisions about development in the North will be made by Northerners, not by Ottawa.

Thank you for bringing these issues to my attention. I look forward to working together to secure the future for Nunavut and Nunavummiut.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Erin O'Toole
Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada