

NDP Response: Premier of Nunavut

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

Dear Premier Savikataaq,

Thank you for your letter dated August 16, 2021 sharing the concerns and opportunities that Nunavummiut have in the current federal election. I have ensured that they are central to the policy development work underway on Indigenous and Arctic policy in our caucus.

When I visited Iqaluit in December 2019, I began to see the beauty of Nunavut's land and felt the warmth of the Nunavummiut who welcomed me into their lives. Mumilaaq Qaqqaq's addition to the NDP Caucus truly emphasized to me and the entire NDP Caucus that Nunavut needs a committed federal voice to remind Canada and any government in power of the gaps in funding and infrastructure that exist across the territory and the federal obligation to address them

Nunavummiut deserve a federal government that listens to them and recognizes their incredible contributions to the prosperity and strength of the whole country. It's time for change that makes life better for everyone. I am convinced that Lori Idlout brings compassion, knowledge and a sophisticated understanding of Inuit and Nunavut structures, including the role of your office, which will only advantage the people of Nunavut.

Canada's New Democrats respect Inuit self-determination and are committed to co-develop of the federal government's *Arctic and Northern Policy Framework*. We will support the economic and social self-reliance of Inuit by addressing the massive infrastructure deficit in Northern communities, including transportation, ports, highways, access to high-speed broadband, and airports. While the federal obligation involves multiple jurisdictions, the key role of Nunavut and your government need to be part of that Framework and funding.

We believe that no one in Canada should be forced to live in an overcrowded home that makes them sick, and yet that legacy of colonialism persists in Nunavut. We will tackle the mold crisis and help create jobs by ensuring that communities have the resources to make their homes safe, greener and more energy efficient.

We are committed to closing the health gap in Nunavut communities. We recognize that healing the ongoing trauma caused by colonialism and residential schools will require long-term partnership and reliable, ongoing funding, and most importantly a transfer of capacity to community and Inuit. The COVID19 pandemic truly emphasized the challenges within Nunavut's healthcare system, and New Democrats will make investments in health care infrastructure, medical supplies and diagnostic equipment, and improve access to mental health and addictions treatment at home and in healthy and appropriate ways.

New Democrats want healthy communities across Nunavut. Our commitment on healthcare includes ensuring that Inuit-led, culturally appropriate home care and long-term care is available for Elders in their home communities and languages. We will also reform the Nutrition North program to improve

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access to food, including country and traditional food. Nutrition North should operate as a social program that benefits communities, not simply as a subsidy for companies.

The obligation of Canada to Inuit or in the North does not change with changing governments. The clear voice of a New Democrat serves Nunavut in ways that the stifled and constrained “inner caucus” of the conventional parties will never deliver. The NDP have presented a platform that speaks to the priorities of people in Nunavut, and that will serve as the basis for our approach going forward. Our commitment is to give Nunavut voters a voice in Ottawa no matter what. A New Democrat voice for Nunavut will be a true advantage for our citizens, will increase the profile of the issues that are important to us, and will get results.

We firmly believe in improving the lives of Nunavummiut, and Canada’s NDP looks forward to working with you, Premier Savikataaq, in the 44th Parliament and beyond, as a true and personal commitment and relationship.

Please feel confident to connect to my office and to seek out my support regardless of the outcome of this election, and to use the offices of your Nunavut member who I sincerely hope will be the excellent candidate we now offer for election.

Sincerely,

Jagmeet Singh
Leader of Canada’s NDP