



Liberal Party of Canada

350 Alberl Street, Suite 920
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Parti libéral du Canada

350, rue Albert, bureau 920
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 6M8

September 15, 2021

Dear Premier Savikataaq,

On behalf of the entire Liberal team, thank you for writing to share the challenges that Nunavut continues to face.

There is more work to be done and we are committed to a continued partnership with the Government of Nunavut to build on the progress we have made over recent years.

The COVID-19 pandemic has tested Canada's resources, including placing immense strain on our health care system. The Liberal government took action by making significant investments to ensure Canadians had the health care they needed. However, I agree with you, we must do more to support mental health and access to health care across Canada. To address these challenges, a re-elected Liberal government would provide \$3.2 billion to the provinces and territories for the hiring of 7,500 new family doctors, nurses, and nurse practitioners to address primary health care needs. We would also immediately invest \$6 billion - on top of \$4 billion already committed - to support the elimination of health system waitlists created by the pandemic. To expand the number of family doctors and primary health teams in rural communities, we would implement a new debt forgiveness program to encourage doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, dentists, psychologists, pharmacists, and other health professionals to practice in rural and northern areas.

We also recognize there is an immediate need for mental health resources. In response, we are committed to permanent, ongoing funding for mental health services through a new Canada Mental Health Transfer with an initial investment of \$4.5 billion over 5 years. This is in addition to further investments of \$2 billion we will make to support First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities with better access to trauma and mental health services.

Over the past six years, we have invested over \$550 million to address housing needs in Nunavut, which helped build, repair, or subsidize 2,600 homes for families. However, we recognize far too many Nunavummiut continue to live in overcrowded and unsuitable housing, and we are prepared to continue working to fix the housing shortage. This is why we have a comprehensive plan to address housing across Canada which includes specific investments that will benefit Nunavummiut including \$2 billion towards



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Indigenous housing for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation, and co-developing an Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy, supported by a dedicated initial investment of \$300 million.

The Liberal government has made historic investments in infrastructure across Canada, including over \$600 million to support infrastructure projects in Nunavut through our bilateral agreements. However, Nunavut has unique infrastructure needs, and we are committed to working together to address these infrastructure challenges.

As detailed in my letter to you, Premier Silver, and Premier Cochrane, we remain committed to the implementation of the Arctic Northern Policy Framework as this will help form the foundation for how we address challenges across the North, including Nunavut.

A re-elected Liberal government will continue to act as a partner with the Government of Nunavut. Together we can address Nunavut's immediate needs while ensuring the territory's long term goals are fulfilled.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin Trudeau', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Justin Trudeau
Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada