



Liberal Party of Canada

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Parti libéral du Canada

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Dear Premier Savikataaq,

Thank you for your letter of September 13, 2019, in which you outline your government's priorities for Nunavut. The Liberal Party of Canada shares your vision of a thriving, self-reliant Nunavut. We believe that, by working collaboratively with your government and other partners in Nunavut, we have made significant progress together over the past four years. We also know there is much more work that needs to be done to build on the investments we have made.

We recognize that 'made in Ottawa' policies have not been successful in your region. That is why our government co-developed the new Arctic and Northern Policy Framework with you and other Arctic and Northern partners. The Framework sets out a shared long-term strategic vision that will guide federal policy development and Arctic investments to 2030 and beyond. We are moving towards more integrated federal, territorial and Indigenous approaches to challenges and opportunities in Nunavut and look forward to continuing to work in partnership with your government to support the priorities of Nunavummiut. We were also pleased to take an important step in August with your government and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated toward Nunavut devolution with the signing of the Agreement-in-Principle. A re-elected Liberal government will work with you and other partners in Nunavut to accelerate progress toward a Final Devolution Agreement.

Although the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework and partner chapters will inform future infrastructure priorities, our government has already made investments in Nunavut that reflect the vision of the Framework and the priorities outlined by your government. For example, you have highlighted the need for new transportation infrastructure funding as crucial to improving safety and fostering economic and social development in Nunavut. This year our government increased the allocation of the National Trade Corridors Fund to Arctic and Northern regions by \$400 million over eight years, bringing the total allocation to these regions to \$800 million. This will help build new roads and other vital connections to and between Arctic and northern communities. We have already committed almost \$72 million in federal funding through this fund for four Nunavut transportation projects, including preparatory work on the Grays Bay Road and Port Project and an expansion of the Rankin Inlet airport terminal. As part of our commitment to support new protection for the High Arctic and to create opportunities for Inuit, our government is also providing infrastructure investments across the North totaling over \$190 million to build multi-use buildings, food processing units and harbours. A re-elected Liberal government will also move forward with addressing critical infrastructure needs – such as housing, all-weather roads, high-speed internet, health facilities, treatment centres, and schools – in Inuit communities by 2030. This will include new investments to support the ongoing operation and maintenance of this infrastructure. A re-elected Liberal government will also move forward with investments that will see all Inuit communities are off diesel and instead powered by clean, renewable and reliable sources of energy – such as hydro, wind, and solar – by 2030.

We also agree that too many Nunavummiut struggle to find a safe and affordable place to call home. That is why our government is making investments through Canada's first National Housing Strategy to fight homelessness and improve access to affordable housing for people living in Nunavut. Through the new Canada-Nunavut Housing Agreement, signed earlier this year, we committed more than \$265 million of federal funding over the next ten years to protect, renew, and expand social and community



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housing, and to repair and build affordable homes across the territory. These investments are in addition to over \$245 million in existing federal funding over the next 10 years for Nunavut through the Social Housing Agreement. We are also pleased to be working with your government to introduce a new Canada Housing Benefit for people living in Nunavut, which will provide direct support to families and people in need. Moreover, our commitment to addressing critical infrastructure needs in Inuit communities by 2030 specifically includes housing.

Over the past four years our government has strengthened our healthcare system with transformative investments – most notably an unprecedented \$11 billion to support better home care and mental health. This is in addition to the roughly \$40 billion we are providing this year through the Canada Health Transfer, four billion more than the Harper Conservatives' last year in office. Between the Canada Health Transfer's existing formula and our new Health Accord, our funding for healthcare is rising by 4.1% in 2021-22. Through Budget 2017, we also committed \$54 million to Nunavut to renew and expand the Territorial Health Investment Fund, which is designed to support efforts by the territories to innovate and transform health care systems, and to ensure that Northerners have access to the care they need. We have also invested \$27.5 million over five years to support an Inuit-specific approach to eliminating tuberculosis in Inuit Nunangat by 2030.

Supporting mental wellness in Nunavut has also been a priority for our government. In 2016, we committed \$9 million for Inuit-specific mental wellness programs including dedicated resources for enhancing mental health services; providing support and training resources for early childhood development programs and supporting a fund for Inuit-led suicide prevention projects and programs. In 2017 our government provided \$189 million over 10 years to your government for community-based programs covering: healthy children, families and communities; healthy living; mental wellness; and home and community care. Through Budget 2019, we invested an additional \$50 million over 10 years, with \$5 million per year ongoing, to support Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami's Inuit-specific approach to address suicide in Inuit communities. We have also committed \$47.5 million of federal funding over five years to support the construction of an addictions and trauma treatment facility in Nunavut and \$9.7 million ongoing to support the operation of that facility. We will continue to work in partnership with your government to expand access to mental wellness and addiction supports for Nunavummiut. A re-elected Liberal government will also co-develop distinctions-based Indigenous Health legislation – backed with the investments needed to deliver this care – and on the development and delivery of services for Inuit. This legislation will ensure that Inuit have access to the high-quality, culturally relevant health care and mental health services they need.

It is also completely unacceptable that many Nunavummiut are still struggling to feed their families. That is why we took immediate action in 2016 by expanding the Nutrition North program to support a total of 116 northern isolated communities. We have also recently invested an additional \$62.6 million over 5 years, with \$10.4 million ongoing, to support improvements to the in the Nutrition North program. These improvements include a Harvesters Support Grant to help lower the high costs associated with traditional hunting and harvesting activities. To build stronger communities, there is now funding for community-led food production projects and skills training for local and Indigenous food production systems. Canada and Inuit have also established an Inuit-Crown Food Security working group to focus on food security and work towards a sustainable food system in Inuit Nunangat. Our work is ongoing,



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and we are committed to working with your government and other partners to ensure that families in Nunavut have access to affordable, healthy food.

Access to education and training is essential to unlocking potential and fostering success. Through Budget 2019 our government committed \$125.5 million over 10 years for an Inuit-led post-secondary education strategy. We have also provided \$1 million, over two years, to establish a task force to study post-secondary education in Canada's Arctic and northern regions. The task force will make recommendations to the federal and territorial governments and Indigenous partners on establishing a robust system of post-secondary education in the North. These investments build upon Budget 2018's investment of \$161.2 million over five years in the Inuit stream of the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program, which supports employment services, skills development and job training.

We have also committed \$333.7 million over five years, and \$115.7 million ongoing, for a distinctions-based approach to Indigenous language revitalization projects to preserve, promote and revitalize Indigenous languages. As you know, we are already collaborating with your government and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, through the Nunavut Partnership Table on Language and Education, on an agreement that will support, revitalize and strengthen Inuktitut in Nunavut. Our government has committed \$42 million over five years to the pathfinder agreement, which will support:

- increasing access to Inuktitut-language instruction in Nunavut;
- increasing and maintaining the number of proficient Inuktitut-speaking Inuit educators;
- increasing the number of fluent Inuktitut speakers in Nunavut; and
- establishing the Nunavut Partnership Table on Language and Education.

Together we will ensure that Inuktitut continues to be strengthened in Nunavut for this generation and those to come.

Our government is also supporting economic development and community success in Nunavut by investing in innovation and things that make a real difference in the lives of Nunavummiut. For example, through the Canadian Economic Development Agency, we invested more than \$1.6 million to support a feasibility study on developing a hydroelectric-fibreoptic link which would connect communities in the Kivalliq region to Northern Manitoba. We know this project has the potential to increase economic opportunities, expand mining in the region and provide a source of clean energy for everyone. To support innovation like this, and encourage stronger business growth in the territories, our government provided an additional \$75 million over five years through Budget 2019 to the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency.

Earlier this year, we set a national target to ensure that 95 per cent of Canadian homes and businesses will have high speed internet by 2026, and 100 per cent by 2030, no matter where they are located in the country. Delivering high-speed internet to these communities, including in Nunavut, will help businesses grow, create new jobs and connect people to the resources, services and information they need to build a better future. It is a key step to closing the gap in the quality of life experienced by Nunavut residents and other Canadians. Moreover, to make travel more affordable for everyone in



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Nunavut, we will move forward with improvements to the Northern Resident Deduction, giving people living in the Northern Zone at least \$1,200 in deductible travel costs, with \$600 in deductible travel costs for people in the Intermediate Zone. We are also supporting mineral exploration in Nunavut by extending the Mineral Exploration Tax Credit, which helps junior exploration companies raise capital to finance early-stage mineral exploration, until March 31, 2024.

Furthermore, with the signing of the devolution Agreement-in-Principle last August, we took an important step toward transferring decision-making power over land and resources into the hands of Nunavut residents, while ensuring that economic and other benefits of resource development in the region are shared with the people of Nunavut. As noted above, a re-elected Liberal government will work with you and other partners to accelerate progress toward a Final Devolution Agreement. A re-elected Liberal government will also establish a new national benefits-sharing framework to ensure that Inuit communities directly benefit from major resource projects in Nunavut.

A re-elected Liberal government will build upon the tangible investments we have made in Nunavut over the past four years as we co-develop the implementation of the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework and continue to invest in the priorities of Nunavummiut.

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