

18 October 2019

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

Dear Mr. Savikataaq,

Thank you for writing to share Nunavut's priorities in advance of the coming federal election. The Green Party looks forward to working with the Government and the people of Nunavut to establish economic growth, political autonomy, sustainable infrastructure, adequate housing and a strong plan to address climate change.

Strengthening the Arctic and nation-building

The Canadian Arctic is a precious and important part of Canada, but the region is experiencing profound change. The Green Party is committed to working with Nunavummiut as the North realizes its full potential as a healthy and prosperous region within a strong and sovereign Canada. Greens recognize that our Arctic sovereignty is already established through the continuous use and occupation of Arctic lands and waters by Indigenous peoples. Decision making and action must build on the northern tradition of respect for the land and on the principles of responsible and sustainable development.

We will support a continued presence and leadership role for Canada at the Arctic Council, keeping dialogue open with other circumpolar nations, including Indigenous nations. The Arctic Council should be the primary forum for the diplomatic resolution of Arctic territorial disputes and the negotiation of multilateral treaties to allow for the formal participation of territorial and Indigenous leadership.

It is critical that the federal government increase investment on our northern coast – in search and rescue, as well as modern infrastructure to deal with the massive expected increase in shipping as the ice melts. This includes a defence policy review to ensure our Arctic coastline is properly surveilled. We also must collaborate with other circumpolar nations on the emerging issues of fisheries policies, while prohibiting further fossil fuel extraction.

A Green government will work in close partnership with northern peoples, Indigenous nations, and territorial governments to establish a vision for how the Arctic will develop and how it will be protected. Through the Council of Canadian Governments, a high-level forum for collaboration expanding on the Council of the Federation, these orders of government will all have a seat at the table on Arctic issues.

Furthermore, the Green Party recognizes Nunavut's authority to determine its own future. The people of Nunavut should have control over their own social services, as well as responsibility for land and resource management. We applaud the progress made on devolution thus far and will support the continuation of this process towards a Final Agreement. We will respect all rights that Indigenous rights holders have over self-defined and self-governed lands; we will respect Inuit sovereignty over Inuit Nunangat.

Housing, mental health, and addictions treatment

Greens recognize the importance of action on mental health. This is why we are dedicating \$1 billion annually to fund community treatment programs for mental health and addictions, as well as a separate \$100 million annually for a national suicide prevention strategy. A Green government will reorient Health Canada's mandate towards addressing mental health and addictions, and establish a cabinet post dedicated to these issues. This funding will support a strategy to address the growing anxieties facing Canadians, including youth and particularly Indigenous youth.

The Green Party firmly believes in addressing the social justice and equality challenges facing Canadians. Improving access to mental health services is a huge part of this. Green MPs will support a Mental Health Parity Act to ensure universal access to mental health services for all, on par with health services more generally.

We will work to find solutions to the lack of medical professionals in Nunavut and in the North generally, including incentives for doctors and expanded virtual care services, especially for mental health where this format is most effective. The implementation of universal pharmacare and free dental care for low-income Canadians will further address issues of access and affordability.

We recognize that health problems are linked to systemic social issues, such as unstable or substandard housing, climate change, and the ongoing harms of Canada's colonial history and present.

The Green Party has committed to enhancing the federal government's contribution to meeting the housing needs of all Canadians across the country through direct investments, changes to tax policies, and lending and granting programs - putting the government's focus where it is urgently needed.

A Green government will prioritize high-quality safe and affordable housing for communities across Nunavut and ensuring an equitable distribution of resources for energy efficiency retrofits. We are working towards a future where everyone in Canada has access to affordable housing, and Inuit communities should be no exception. Having a Minister of Housing and a National Housing Strategy will help to address this, but funding is crucial.

Economic development, infrastructure, and energy

Our fight against climate change is urgent, but provides an opportunity to address the varied needs of communities across the country. We will invest in climate-proofing essential infrastructure, prioritizing upgrades to drinking water and wastewater systems to protect against flooding, droughts, and



contamination. Our climate plan also involves a shift away from fossil fuel production. We will implement a just transition program for people employed in this industry that will include labour supports, retraining and apprenticeship programs, and additional infrastructure funding in affected communities.

The Green Party enthusiastically supports efforts to promote energy affordability and sustainability in Canada's North. To reduce energy costs, Greens will work with the provinces and territories to develop a plan to transition to a trans-Canada nationally integrated power grid with capacity for efficient transport of high electrical loads from diverse sources of renewable energy. Every dollar invested in green energy creates seven times as many jobs as a dollar invested in traditional energy sectors. The Green Party will make key investments in renewable energy in the territories, including focused federal support for the deployment of wind turbines, solar photovoltaics, and geothermal capacity, to support more affordable and sustainable energy.

The Green Canadian Grid strategy includes two existing projects to bring renewable electricity through the grid to Nunavut and Northwest Territories. A Green government will reduce the cost of energy in Nunavut by replacing costly and polluting diesel generation with renewable energy.

We are committed to dedicating one percentage point of GST to municipal infrastructure. We will reform the Infrastructure Bank to provide low-interest loans to provinces, territories and municipalities in support infrastructure projects. With the right vision, meaningful collaboration and investment, we can build more livable communities in the North.

To participate fully in the digital economy, individuals and communities across the country, including in Nunavut need access to reliable, affordable, high-speed internet. The Green Party believes more needs to be done to ensure this is a reality, which is why we will invest \$400 million per year in a universal broadband strategy to address this problem, and reform telecommunications regulations to lower prices and broaden access.

Education, Inuktit language and skills training

A Green economy is built on innovation, and we will invest in strategies to support this across Canada and in Nunavut. The fact that many Northerners have to go south for training highlights the need for more made-in-Nunavut solutions and higher education. We believe the North can help lead in this sector and help to diversify the economy.

As part of the Green transition away from extractive industries, we will invest in comprehensive retraining and apprenticeship programs for industrial trades workers for jobs in the transition to a zero-carbon economy, especially the renewable and energy efficiency sectors. Greater investment in infrastructure, including climate-proofing infrastructure and renewable energy projects, will bring more opportunities and employment across the territories. Changes to public procurement will require successful bidders on federal infrastructure contracts to maximize the spin-off community benefits of such contracts, bringing economic benefits to Northern communities.



We recognize the importance of Inuktitut to the people of Nunavut and are committed to helping to strengthen it through greater investment in Indigenous languages, and better funding for culturally-relevant primary education.

Greens are devoted to a true North, strong and free. We will commit the resources and focus needed to renew Canada's Arctic strength by supporting Nunavut in every way possible. We will strive to bring together orders of government from across Canada to make this a reality.

I look forward to working with you in the coming years to support Nunavut.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth May, O.C.
Member of Parliament
Saanich—Gulf Islands
Leader of the Green Party of Canada

