

October 17, 2019

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

Dear Premier Savikataaq,

I want to thank you for your letter highlighting the priorities of Nunavut and the struggles that Nunavummiut are experiencing. Regardless of the outcome of the 2019 election, I want to assure you that Canada's New Democrats will continue to work to build a positive relationship with the people of Nunavut, one based on mutual respect and trust.

Though while many of your concerns are concerns shared by many Canadians, we believe there must be a distinctions-based approach to serve Nunavummiut. Nunavut has unique people, unique cultures, and unique needs, for which there is no universal, top-down approach.

I'd like to share with you a few of the commitments that New Democrats have made in Our New Deal for People and how they relate to the priorities you have shared with me.

Infrastructure and Investment

New Democrats know that we need major new investments in social infrastructure to make the communities of Nunavut healthy and safe. In 2019, too many communities do not have access to reliable health care or mental health services. In too many remote and rural communities, people are forced to live with just a few days of medical care in federal nursing stations that are inadequate for the needs of their communities.

New Democrats recognize that there is a severe infrastructure gap in Nunavut, and that this gap is only growing. A failure to invest in Nunavut is a lost opportunity for the Northern economy, and a critical oversight in our combined efforts to build climate resilience – and blocks opportunities for people who live in the North.

We will work in partnership with communities across Nunavut – including with new federal investments – to encourage economic development and create good jobs through infrastructure investments, expanded access to broadband and cell service and better economic opportunities and good new jobs. We commit to working with Inuit entrepreneurs to find solutions to problems with access to capital and scale up, investing in social enterprise projects and entrepreneurship.

We will create a Northern Infrastructure Fund to fast-track investment and focus on improving much-needed infrastructure like roads and broadband internet for communities in the North.

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In it for you • On se bat pour vous

NDP  **NDP**
Jagmeet
Singh

Housing

New Democrats recognize the housing crisis across Canada and in Nunavut. More and more people are waiting for housing and the investments made by the federal government have not been sufficient to reduce wait times for safe housing, ease overcrowding, or make improvements to homes that need it.

We believe that everyone in Nunavut should be able to find a safe and affordable place to call home. In government, the NDP will work with Nunavut and municipalities to build new affordable housing over the next ten years. This will include social housing, community and non-market housing, as well as co-ops. We'll also streamline the application process and immediately provide dedicated fast-start funds to help communities get the expertise and assistance they need to get projects off the ground now. We want to ensure that all homes in Nunavut are not only healthy and safe, but also energy efficient and built for the unique needs of Nunavummiut.

Mental Health and Addictions Treatment

In 2019, too many communities still do not have access to reliable health care or mental health services. In too many communities, people are forced to live without proper medical care in federal nursing stations – health care services that are simply inadequate to the needs of these communities.

And much, much more must be done to end the suicide crisis affecting so many Indigenous communities. Too many Indigenous youth feel no hope and don't have access to the help they need, when they need it. One more suicide is one too many. New Democrats support the great work that Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami has done on the National Inuit Suicide Prevention Strategy and we will continue our work in parliament – as we have been doing for many years now – pushing for a National Suicide Prevention Action Plan.

New Democrats are committed to closing the health gap in Inuit communities – and we will back up this commitment with new federal investments. We will make sure Nunavummiut can get the help they need by working in partnership with communities and leadership to improve access to mental health and addictions treatment services. We will also work with communities and care providers to ensure culturally appropriate home care and long-term care is available to Elders in their homes and in their languages.

Economic Development and Community Success

We are committed to building a new fiscal relationship that secures funding to support programs and services in Nunavut. A new fiscal relationship would also ensure access to revenue streams to help close the socio-economic gap and better support self-government.

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We will work in partnership with communities across Nunavut to encourage economic development and create good jobs through infrastructure investments and expanded access to broadband and cell service, expand economic opportunities and create good jobs in communities. We commit to working with entrepreneurs to find solutions to access capital and scale up, investing in social enterprise projects and entrepreneurship. And we will commit to dedicated regional economic development support in order to expand economic opportunities in a way that reflects communities' social and cultural values.

Strengthening the Arctic and Nation-building

New Democrats will respect Inuit self-determination by honouring and strengthening the federal government's Arctic Policy Framework through shared governance within the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee, including through the adoption of an Inuit Nunangat policy in full partnership with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami.

We will support the economic and social self-reliance of Inuit by addressing the massive infrastructure deficit in Northern communities.

Transportation, Energy and Fibre corridors

New Democrats know that if we make the right choices now, we can create good jobs building the vehicles and transit infrastructure we need to keep Canadians moving in the future. Quality public transit and transport is essential to making our towns, communities and regions run.

We believe we can build and expand on the work that municipalities are already doing to modernize transit and transportation vehicles and equipment. And we will work to expand bus service in rural regions by working with local bus operators and, where necessary, expand VIA Rail's mandate to run zero-emission buses.

People in Northern, rural and remote communities rely on the energy sector for work. In transitioning to a greener economy, we need to ensure that job training, investments in green technology, and new economic opportunities are resourced while energy workers are still supported. This is how we will put Nunavut at the forefront creating clean new jobs in the renewable energy economy.

New Democrats believe we can further stimulate economic development and create good jobs through substantial new infrastructure investments and expanded access to broadband internet and cell service for rural and remote communities.

Education, Inuktitut language and skills training

For decades under the Canadian government, too many young people in Nunavut haven't had access to a quality education. We believe every child has the right to learn – and to learn in a

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safe place. And we believe everyone should have the opportunity to learn their peoples' traditional languages, history and culture.

New Democrats recognize our treaty and constitutional responsibilities for Inuit K-12 schooling, and the barriers to education and research that exist within Nunavut.

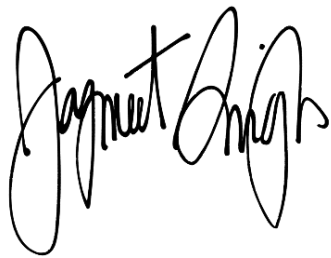
In government, New Democrats will ensure that every child is provided a safe place to learn and an opportunity to succeed. We will implement *Shannen's Dream* of equitable access to education backed up by federal investments in infrastructure.

We know the barriers to post-secondary education and training continue to exist and limit opportunities for Inuit peoples. We will support Indigenous youth and help to bridge the gap to post-secondary education through expanded financial assistance, long distance education, and support for students who grew up in care. In partnership with ITK and communities in Nunavut, we will support investments in education and work towards the creation of an Arctic university.

We also recognize the unique language needs of Nunavummiut. New Democrats will continue to support education and promotion of Inuktitut, and work to ensure that Inuktitut speakers can receive service from the federal government in their own language.

Again, thank you for sharing the priorities of Nunavut with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jagmeet Singh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jagmeet" and the last name "Singh" clearly legible.

Jagmeet Singh
Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada