



July 27, 2023

The Honourable David Akeeagok, MLA
Minister of Justice
Office of the Minister
Legislative Assembly Precinct
Iqaluit, NU
X0A 0H0

The Honourable Lorne Kusugak, MLA
Minister of Finance
Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission
Office of the Minister
Legislative Assembly Precinct
Iqaluit, NU
X0A 0H0

Dear Ministers Akeeagok and Kusugak:

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Tununiq.

As you are aware, the community of Pond Inlet recently suffered a number of violent incidents involving the use of alcohol. I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the community's first responders and to express my concern at the impact that substance abuse is having on public safety in the community.

It is my understanding that the current 20-year *Canada-Nunavut Territorial Policing Service Agreement*, which was signed in 2012, provides for a contract management committee that consists of federal and territorial representatives and which has the mandate of assessing law enforcement resource requirements in the jurisdiction. I wish to take this opportunity to express my strong support for the Government of Nunavut to advocate for an immediate increase in the size of the community's Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment and the number of officers who are permanently stationed in the community.

The *Pond Inlet Liquor Restriction Regulations* made under the authority of the territorial *Liquor Act* provide for the establishment of a committee "... whose functions shall include the education and counselling of persons in the use of alcohol for the prevention of alcohol abuse and whatever other functions may be assigned to it by these regulations."

I also wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the members of the committee and the important work that it performs, as well as expressing my strong support for increased training and resources to be provided to the committee in order to strengthen its capacity to support our territory's hard reduction goals.

I note that one of the Department of Finance's priorities for the current 2023-2024 fiscal year is to "engage in stakeholder and targeted community consultations informed by the internal review of the *Liquor Act* and begin the legislative amendment processes." I also wish to take this opportunity to encourage the department to work with Pond Inlet's alcohol education committee to identify appropriate amendments to the *Pond Inlet Liquor Restriction Regulations* which would provide for prescribed limits to the amount of alcohol that can be imported into the community within defined periods of time.

I look forward to your replies.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Nutarak". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Nutarak, MLA
Tununiq

c.c. Mayor of Pond Inlet
Chair, Pond Inlet Alcohol Education Committee
Commanding Officer, Royal Canadian Mounted Police 'V' Division

