



January 10, 2017

Tabled Document 241-4(3)

Feb 21/17

The Honourable Paul Quassa, MLA
Minister of Education
Office of the Minister
Legislative Assembly Precinct
Iqaluit, NU
X0A 0H0

Paul
Dear Minister Quassa:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the status of your department's efforts to safeguard the Sam Pudlat School in the community of Cape Dorset. I appreciate your keeping me informed of this situation.

I share your concern at the number of incidents of arson and attempted arson that have recently occurred in the community. In reviewing the 2013, 2014 and 2015 annual reports of the Office of the Fire Marshal, I note that there were a total of eleven fires over the course of three years. Your reference to there being "upwards of seven arson attempts ... within the past year [alone]" is deeply disturbing. I would like to take this opportunity to request that the Office of the Fire Marshall work closely with the community's RCMP detachment and other relevant authorities to ensure that the municipal council and the District Education Authority receive regular updates on the status of such incidents.

I applaud and thank you and your department for your efforts to upgrade security at the Sam Pudlat School, and I fully support the provision of on-site security personnel during weekends and after school hours on an ongoing basis.

I also applaud and thank you and your department for your efforts to work with other entities to "reduce the risk of arson and to ensure that ... facilities [in the community] are protected." As you will recall, the issue of interagency co-operation and action has been one of the themes that I have emphasized in the Legislative Assembly. I strongly support the engagement of a facilitator to work with appropriate stakeholders to undertake a community summit meeting to develop an action plan for Cape Dorset. I look forward to working closely with you on this initiative.