



Tabling of Documents

Joe Enook, MLA

Tununiq

May 30, 2017

*Correspondence from the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs
Concerning the Nutrition North Canada Program*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Members will recall from our sitting of February 21, 2017, I tabled a copy of my correspondence to the federal Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs concerning the Nutrition North Canada Program.

I am pleased to table today a copy of the Minister's reply to me, which I encourage all Members to review with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Ministre des Affaires
autochtones et du Nord



Minister of Indigenous and
Northern Affairs

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

MAR 22 2017

Tabled document 312-4(3)

MAY 30, 2017

Mr. Joe Enook, M.L.A.
Government of Nunavut
PO Box 1200
IQALUIT NU X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Enook:

Thank you for your correspondence of December 7, 2016, regarding the recent community meeting held in Pond Inlet, Nunavut, as part of the Nutrition North Canada 2016 engagement process. I understand that the meeting was well attended and raised a number of important issues such as which food items should get the highest subsidy level, extending the subsidy to essential non-food items and food transported by sea lift, food quality, the importance of country foods, subsidizing supports to hunting and harvesting activities, and improving program visibility.

On May 30, 2016, the Honourable Jane Philpott, Minister of Health, and I announced an engagement process intended to canvass the views of Northerners, Indigenous organizations, and other partners regarding the Nutrition North Canada program. Concluded on December 9, 2016, the engagement process included the conduct of stakeholder interviews and surveys, written submissions, and community meetings. Engagement findings will be used to develop options to update the program and to ensure that Nutrition North Canada serves Northerners in a more efficient, transparent, and culturally appropriate manner.

The location of the community meetings was determined on the advice of the Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board; however, the engagement sessions themselves were planned and delivered by a third-party consulting firm, Interis BDO, supported by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada and Health Canada staff. Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board members provide information and advice related to the management and effectiveness of the program. They did not lead nor have a specific role in the engagement process. Members each serve in their own right, as volunteers and not as representatives of any particular organization, area, or special interest.

As part of its responsibilities, the Nutrition North Canada Advisory Board is mandated to meet three times a year to hold face-to-face meetings. In 2016, the Advisory Board held two face-to-face meetings coordinated alongside Nutrition North Canada Engagement 2016 community meetings in Old Crow, Yukon, on May 30, 2016, as well as in Fort Hope and Big Trout Lake, Ontario, on November 29, 2016.

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I understand that the Advisory Board members are finalizing a report on their activities. Once complete, the report will be made publicly available on the Nutrition North Canada website at www.nutritionnorthcanada.gc.ca. As well, I will be filling the vacant Advisory Board Chair position and other vacancies on the Advisory Board in the coming months.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention. Please be assured that future action will reflect engagement with Northerners as we look to find solutions by Northerners for Northerners.

We look forward to continuing the dialogue and working with all stakeholders to help continue to improve this growing program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carolyn Bennett".

Hon. Carolyn Bennett, M.D., P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Jane Philpott, P.C., M.P.
The Honourable Hunter Tootoo, P.C., M.P.