

Tabling of Documents

Emiliano Qirngnuq, MLA

June 5, 2017

Exchange of Correspondence with the Minister of Justice Concerning Firearms Safety Training

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of firearms safety training is very important to Nunavut communities. I am pleased to today to table my recent exchange of correspondence with the Minister of Justice concerning firearms safety and education training programs in Nunavut, which I encourage all Members to review with care.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

U. 100/3/00130

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Nunavut Maligaliurvia Assemblée législative du Nunavut

March 27, 2017

Tabled document 320-4(3) June 5/17

Hon. Keith Peterson, MLA Minister of Justice Office of the Minister Legislative Assembly Precinct Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Dear Minister Peterson:

As you will recall, you tabled the 2016-2018 Shared Directional Statement Between the Government of Nunavut and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police "V" Division on November 8, 2016.

The Shared Directional Statement articulates the following goal:

"With multi-agency partnerships, a firearms safety and education program will be implemented to focus on enhancing public safety and community wellness. Partners and stakeholders will include the Government of Nunavut, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, federal agencies, hamlet councils, Hunters' and Trappers' Organizations, Community Justice Committees and other stakeholders."

As you will recall, this issue was raised in the Legislative Assembly on the occasion of its March 2, 2017, sitting.

I am attaching for your review a collection of letters concerning an initiative in Taloyoak to provide firearms safety and education training to the community. However, as you will note, there is a lack of clarity as to how support can be accessed for the acquisition of essential firearms safety and training teaching materials and supplies, including translation and interpretation resources.

I strongly support the *Shared Directional Statement*'s goal of implementing a "firearms safety and education program" for Nunavut, and would ask that your reply to my correspondence clarify, in detail, the status of this initiative.

I would also ask that your reply to my correspondence clarify, in detail, what specific sources of funding are available from departments or agencies of the Government of Nunavut to support the acquisition of essential firearms safety and training teaching materials and supplies, including translation and interpretation resources.

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I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

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Emiliano Qirngnuq, MLA Netsilik

c.c. Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut Senator for Nunavut Member of Parliament for Nunavut Mayor and Council, Municipality of Taloyoak Commanding Officer, RCMP 'V' Division Commanding Officer, Taloyoak RCMP Detachment Chief Firearms Officer for Manitoba and Nunavut Chairperson, Taloyoak Hunters' and Trappers' Organization Chairperson, Taloyoak Community Justice Committee Mr. Bruce Holwell

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Emiliano Qirngnuq MLA Netsilik Legislative Assembly Precinct Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Qirngnuq,

Thank you for your letter dated March 27, 2017, in which you asked for information on the "firearms safety and education program" outlined in the 2016-2018 Shared Directional Statement Between the Government of Nunavut and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police "V" Division.

As stated in that document, this program relies on the efforts and resources of several government and non-governmental partners. The Department of Health operates the Firearm Safety Campaign, in collaboration with the RCMP and community organizations, as part of its mandate to address injury prevention. Health officials have provided the information below on the status of this program:

- The Department Health supports the efforts by the RCMP to eliminate or minimize the risks of bodily injuries and/or unintentional deaths caused by unauthorized possession and use, and improper storage or handling of firearms.
- In 2013, in line with territory-wide injury prevention efforts, Health began collaborating with the RCMP to address injuries associated with the improper storage or handling of firearms. Since that time, Health has procured over 11,000 trigger and cable locks to continue the door-to-door campaign, in attempts to visit every door in Nunavut by 2018.
- In March 2016, Health collaborated with the RCMP to provide funding and administrative support to strengthen and expand the coverage of the Canadian Firearms Safety Course (CFSC). Three regional CFSC sessions were completed and provided training and certification for approximately 40 new instructors across Nunavut. Taloyoak has one certified instructor from this training. These instructors will assist in providing firearm safety education, and licensing and regulatory processes in their respective communities.

- Health will continue to collaborate with the RCMP and other stakeholders to improve firearm safety in Nunavut by:
 - Distributing trigger locks in the remaining communities;
 - Improving administrative and program support for the new CFSC instructors in order to effectively deliver the CFSC course in their communities;
 - Translating the CFSC course books into Inuktitut in partnership with Inuit Uqausinginnik Taiguusiliuqtiit linguists and terminologist's team; and
 - Planning, implementing, and evaluating an "Annual Firearm Safety Day" in at least 5 communities.

Any further inquiries on the Fire Safety Campaign, including language supports for the Canadian Firearms Safety Course in Nunavut, should be directed to the Department of Health.

Sincerely,

Hon. Keith Peterson Minister of Justice