

L–L–D–S∿∩ İ-J– ⊶b≁ Honourable Margaret Nakashuk L'honorable Margaret Nakashuk Nanngariyauyuq Margaret Nakashuk

Chairperson George Hickes Committee of the Whole <u>ghickes@assembly.nu.ca</u>

March 13, 2023

## RE: Follow-up from Committee of the Whole's Review of the Department of Family Services' 2023-2024 Main Estimates and Business Plan

Dear Chair Hickes,

I write to you today to provide additional clarification on topics that were raised during my appearance before the Committee of the Whole on its review of the Department of Family Services 2023-2024 Main Estimates and Business Plan on March 8, 2023.

1. Staffing Levels of Income Assistance Workers in Each Community

The Department of Family Services currently has 34.7664 Income Assistance Workers across the territory. The following are communities are currently staffed with Income Assistance Workers:

- Iqaluit
- Arctic Bay
- Kinngait
- Clyde River
- Sanirajak
- Igloolik
- Kimmirut
- Pangnirtung
- Pond Inlet
- Arviat
- Baker Lake
- Coral Harbour
- Rankin Inlet
- Naujaat

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- Whale Cove
- Cambridge Bay
- Gjoa Haven
- Kugluktuk
- Kugaaruk
- Taloyoak

The communities with part-time Income Assistance Workers that will be transitioning into fulltime positions are:

- Kimmirut
- Chesterfield Inlet
- Whale Cove
- Pond Inlet
- Kugluktuk
- Taloyoak
- Pangnirtung
- Clyde River
- Kugaaruk
- Arviat
- Sanikiluaq
- 2. Career Development Officers

The Department of Family Services is working on a plan to train Inuit in five communities to become Career Development Officers (CDO) in their communities. The department's continuing request, in relation to our departmental re-organization, includes 13 additional CDO positions that would increase staffing positions in the communities of Baker Lake, Coral Harbour, Kinngait, Gjoa Haven, Pond Inlet, and Iqaluit, as well as a position for the South Baffin region.

Communities that are currently staffed with CDOs include:

- Cambridge Bay
- Igloolik
- Rankin Inlet
- Kugluktuk
- Pangnirtung
- Baker Lake
- Arviat
- Iqaluit

The 17 communities that do not have CDOs in the community are served by phone, internet, and community visits.

3. Elders Country Food Consultations

The department works with the departments of Health, Culture and Heritage, Environment, and Economic Development and Transportation, and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., to support food security initiatives. The department will continue to work with our partners to identify Elders needs and wishes for country food. To support this priority laid out in the Katujjiluta mandate, a staff member was recently hired to focus on engaging Elders and providing recommendations on ways to improve access to country food.

4. Makimaniq Plan

The Department of Family Services' Poverty Reduction Division is responsible for the administration and coordination of the *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act.* The Act commits the Government of Nunavut to participate as a partner with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Inuit organizations, other governments, non-government organizations, and businesses on the Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction to implement the *Makimaniq Plan* and the *Five-Year Poverty Reduction Action Plan* in a manner consistent with Article 32 of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

The *Collaboration for Poverty Reduction Act* requires the Poverty Reduction division to assess whether the budget measures, programs, policies, and initiatives of the Government of Nunavut are consistent with the *Makimaniq Plan*. This work is particularly important in determining the effectiveness of the *Makimaniq Plan* in producing change and helping stakeholders identify if the plan's eight long-term outcomes were achieved.

The Nunavut Roundtable for Poverty Reduction is a forum for organizations that are committed to a shared understanding of poverty and a shared approach to reducing poverty in Nunavut. It is a forum through which the Government of Nunavut can meet its obligations under Article 32 of the *Nunavut Agreement*. Overall leadership and direction for the Roundtable is provided by the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. Other members include Regional Inuit Associations, municipalities, non-government organizations, community groups, and businesses. The Roundtable also includes representative seats at each gathering for youth, Elders, persons with disabilities, and persons with lived experience of poverty. While the government and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. play the most prominent roles in implementation, accountability for action on poverty reduction in Nunavut extends to the entire Roundtable membership.

5. Multiyear Funding Supports for Not-For Profits

The department continues to support not-for-profit organizations and community-driven initiatives. The department continues to work in collaboration with the Department of Finance on the Grants and Contributions Policy to allow for multiyear funding and ensuring our policies meet partner needs. There are barriers not-for-profit organizations face and my officials are actively looking for improvements in how to best support these organizations and our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional details on the issues listed above. This information should answer and clarify our response to your questions from my appearance before Committee of the Whole on March 8, 2023.

Regards,

Whahashuk

Hon. Margaret Nakashuk Minister of Family Services