



January 22, 2024

The Honourable David Akeeagok, MLA
Minister of Economic Development and Transportation
Office of the Minister
Legislative Assembly Precinct
Iqaluit, NU
X0A 3H0

The Honourable John Main, MLA
Minister of Health
Office of the Minister
Legislative Assembly Precinct
Iqaluit, NU
X0A 3H0

Dear Ministers Akeeagok and Main:

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet in respect to the issue of security at Nunavut airports and health centres.

As the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, I appreciate, recognize and understand the need for security at critical facilities, including airports and health centres. I wish to take this opportunity to advise you that a number of my constituents have emphasized to me the importance of providing opportunities for residents of both communities that I represent to obtain the training and credentials necessary to provide such services.

As the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, I frequently have the opportunity to travel through both communities' airports. I have recently observed an enhanced security presence at the Rankin Inlet Airport, and **I ask that your replies to my correspondence confirm** what entity has been awarded the contract to provide security services at the airport.

I also ask that your replies to my correspondence clarify, in detail, how the government ensures that the terms and conditions of the contract provide for training and employment opportunities for residents of Rankin Inlet.

On November 12, 2023, the Government of Nunavut issued *Request for Proposals 2023-64: Security Services for 16 Nunavut Health Centres*. The Request for Proposals recently closed on January 8, 2024. I note that the Request for Proposals indicates that:

"Four levels of security services are required:

- Enhanced security services provided by security guards with previous law enforcement experience are required in Igloodik, Kinngait, Pangnirtung, Coral Harbour, **Chesterfield Inlet** and Sanikiluaq.
- Services provided by guards with basic security guard training as provided by the contractor are required in, Kugaaruk, Naujaat, and Gjoa Haven.
- Services provided by security guards with previous law enforcement experience who will train and mentor guards with basic security training are required in Pond Inlet, Arviat, Baker Lake, Kugluktuk, **Rankin Inlet** and Cambridge Bay.
- Services provided by security guards with previous law enforcement experience who will train and mentor guards with basic security training who are GN employees are required in Taloyoak."

I ask that your replies to my correspondence clarify, in detail, how the government will ensure that the terms and conditions of the contract provide for training and employment opportunities for residents of Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet.

I look forward to your replies.

Yours sincerely,



Alexander Sammurtok, MLA
Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet

c.c. Honourable Lorne Kusugak, MLA for Rankin Inlet South



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 Minister of Economic Development and Transportation
 Ministaat Pivalliajuliqijitkut Ingilrajuliqijitkullu
 Ministre du Développement économique et des Transports

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March 5, 2024

Dear Mr. Sammurtok,

Thank you for your letter dated January 22, 2024, regarding security services at the Rankin Inlet Airport terminal building.

This service was put in place in November 2023 in response to a growing number of incidents where the travelling public and people working at the airport were exposed to potentially volatile situations involving intoxicated people. Concerns were brought forward by Calm Air, by the Nunavut Airports operations staff, and by residents of Rankin Inlet.

As you know, the airport serves as the connection point between seven Kivalliq communities and the south. It is also a station stop connecting the eastern and western arctic, and the terminal point for crew rotations in and out of mining operations. This airport hub averages about 40 take-offs and landings daily.

The department has determined that the risk to public safety posed by these incidents has become alarming and unacceptable. Due to the urgent nature of the complaints, the initial contract was put in place on a sole source basis with Scarlet Security & Risk Group (SSRG).

The current contract is short-term, and a more comprehensive public Request for Proposals process will be initiated shortly. We will include Inuit training and employment as an evaluation criterion for all proposals and will apply financial penalties to any failure of the contractor to meet their proposed targets. Given the relatively small size of the contract which consists of requiring one person on duty through a 12- hour shift may be challenging.

Our hope is to see Inuit trained and hired on a full-time basis to cover the daily 12-hour shifts but recruiting and retention is often cited as an on-going issue.

Sincerely,

Hon. David Akeeagok
 Minister of Economic Development and Transportation