



July 31, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Member of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut representing the constituency of Iqaluit-Sinaa to strongly urge you to take decisive and immediate action to ensure that three key federally-appointed offices in the territory are filled at the earliest practicable opportunity.

As you are aware, Nunavut has been without a Deputy Commissioner since April of 2023, a Senator since December of 2023 and a Chief Justice since April of this year. I am confident that you will agree that it is unacceptable that a small jurisdiction such as Nunavut continues to be without a Senator, a Chief Justice and a Deputy Commissioner for extended periods of time.

As you will note in the attached excerpts from the Nunavut and Senate *Hansards*, serious concerns continue to be raised by both myself and other territorial and federal representatives concerning these ongoing vacancies. As you will appreciate, these ongoing vacancies pose significant risks and I ask that your reply to my correspondence provide a clear timeline for when appointments will be made.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Janet Pitsiulaaq Brewster'.

Janet Pitsiulaaq Brewster, MLA  
Iqaluit-Sinaa

c.c. Member of Parliament for Nunavut  
Senator for Yukon  
Senator for the Northwest Territories  
Nunavut MLAs  
Mayor of Iqaluit

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I last raised this issue during the fall sitting, I asked the minister when he would take action to reduce the number of hours per week that the beer and wine store is open. At that time, the minister indicated that he would be reviewing the subject. Can the minister confirm today if and when the beer and wine store opening hours will be reduced? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Even if we reduce the hours, what benefits we would see is something we can't say, whether it will reduce it is something we can't say at this time. The amount that consumers can purchase was reduced. After the review of what impact it had, we will. If we work at these all at once, we won't really get the grasp of what the benefits or negative impacts it had.

Concerning the hours reduction, we haven't made any decision until we determine the less purchasing of alcohol, what impact that will have had. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Second and final supplementary, Mr. Sammurtok.

**Mr. Sammurtok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, amendments to the Beer and Wine Store Regulations were published in the September 2023 edition of *Nunavut Gazette*. I was very surprised to see a reference in the Beer and Wine Store Regulations to the Municipality of Cambridge Bay. Can the minister confirm if and when a new beer and wine store will be opened in that community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're continuing to learn what improvements may be made in opening a beer and wine store. 80 percent of the community in Cambridge Bay wanted to open a beer and wine store, but we can't just open a beer and wine store. The inventory, what we need to purchase, and a space are required. This year, I do not expect a beer and wine store to be open there, but it is still yet at work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

#### **Question 795 – 6(2): Federal-Territorial Relations**

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Premier and they concern his recent announcement in the House about the current state of bilateral relations with the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier's statement covered a lot of ground, so I ask your indulgence as I endeavour to do the same thing today.

Mr. Speaker, as the Premier will appreciate, I closely followed the proceedings of the Parliament of Canada. I was very happy to note that our hardworking Member of Parliament took the time last month to make reference to an exchange that the Premier and I recently had in this House concerning the Government of Nunavut's immigration policy.

In her questions to the federal government, our Member of Parliament referenced to the comments that the Premier made to me when he stated that the lack of housing is the single biggest obstacle facing us in welcoming immigrants and refugees to Nunavut.

Can the Premier tell me today if he raised this specific issue with the Prime Minister in any of their recent meetings here in Iqaluit and can he clearly describe what was the Prime Minister's response to him? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague for that question. We're always very fortunate to have our ongoing collaborations with the Prime Minister, specifically when we have many very pressing issues and partnerships that we have been building.

During that specific bilateral discussion, we did not address the immigration, Mr. Speaker we really focused on the historic signing of the devolution agreement and the continued partnership we're going to have to continue to build upon.

Further to that, we also discussed housing being the cornerstone of our mandate among many things, but immigration was not one of the topics I specifically discussed with the Prime Minister at my most recent bilateral discussion with him when he came here into Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Premier, that's a completely understandable response.

On another issue that falls under the area of federal-territorial relations concerns the filling of critical appointments.

Mr. Speaker, we're not Ontario or Quebec, provinces that have dozens of representatives, judges, and other office holders.

Mr. Speaker, currently, Nunavut does not have a deputy commissioner. Nunavut does not have a sitting Senator, and Nunavut will very shortly be without a chief justice. Mr. Speaker, the federal government cannot be allowed to permit these critical roles to remain vacant for extended periods of time.

Can the Premier assure me today that he raised this specific issue with the Prime Minister in any of their recent meetings here in Iqaluit, and can he clearly describe what was the Prime Minister's response to him? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I thank my colleague for that question. Yes, I did mention the urgency that is, in particular to the deputy commissioner. That has been a concern that I've raised many times. We're in constant communication with the Prime Minister's office.

It is my understanding it is going through the process to make that appointment. I am as well aware and really encourage the expediency in terms of the appointment the next Senator. It's so important when you only have one seat at the second sober thought at the Senate, who plays a real crucial role in terms of amending legislation that respects the priorities and the realities that we face here in our territory. It is something I did mention that we require that urgently to be filled.

I am very thankful that Minister LeBlanc had indicated that there is a committee now accepting applications, and I really encourage every Nunavummiut who is interested to apply to be able to serve Nunavummiut in that very important role.

As well, just with the recent minister's statement of my colleague of our Chief Justice Mr. Sharkey's retirement that is forthcoming, I could assure the member we are working very closely with my colleague to ensure that the next appointment is done as quickly as we can to ensure the stability and certainty, I think we all seek for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your final supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. I look forward to hearing those announcements very soon.

Mr. Speaker, we know that the next federal budget will be introduced next month. What assurances did the Prime Minister provide to the Premier that there will be no cuts to federal programs that are targeted toward Inuit and other Indigenous Canadians? Thank you, Mr. Premier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

**Speaker:** Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too, was very excited to hear the Hon. Chrystia Freeland just announced that and to next month later in April that they'll be announcing the federal budget.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2023-26 business plan indicated that it had "Engaged a consulting firm to produce a report on local housing organization governance models to see how the public housing allocation process and organizational structure can be improved."

Mr. Speaker, could the minister confirm when the report from this work will be ready to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As soon as that report is available to be tabled I will be more than happy to table it in this House, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Your second and final supplementary, Mr. Quqqiaq.

**Mr. Quqqiaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, minister, for your response. I will be looking forward to that report.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate what specific changes to the local housing organization governance models and organizational structures are being actively considered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kusugak.

**Hon. Lorne Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are several tweaks or changes we might be able to make in terms of the housing management styles and in the policies, some of which may include looking at regional Inuit associations instead of all local ones. In some communities it becomes a challenge to find local people who want to become part of the housing associations.

There's always a cause of different issues arising in different communities. We are taking a look at what possible solutions there may be; should we take a look at maybe region housing associations and see what kind of benefit those might draw. There are a number of other issues and possibilities we are looking at, at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Ms. Brewster.

#### **Question 860 – 6(2): Federal-Territorial Relations**

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and welcome back to the beautiful City of Iqaluit. It's nice to see you.

My questions are for the Premier and they concern the current state of federal-territorial relations.

As the Premier will recall, I raised concerns during the winter sitting of the Legislative Assembly regarding the alarming number of vacancies in some of the most senior federally appointed positions in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, we have been without a deputy commissioner since April of last year; we've been without a Senator since December of last year; and now we are without a permanent chief justice.

Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out to the Premier very clearly, we are not Ontario or Quebec. We cannot continue indefinitely with only half of our federal Parliamentarians being in office, and we cannot continue to risk a vacuum here if the positions of commissioner, deputy commissioner and chief justice were all to be vacant at the same time.

Mr. Speaker can the Premier tell us today what explanations the Prime minister has given to the Premier for the long delays in filling these critical roles? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok.

**Hon. P.J. Akeeagok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for that question, and I couldn't agree more, the importance and how vital these very important roles play. Every chance I have, my meetings with the Prime Minister as well the federal counterparts I do stress the importance of urgency.

We continue to impress these are federal processes that are there, but we continue to press from my office to ensure that Ottawa expedites the appointments, whether it's the deputy commissioner, which I know I had sought the advice from the regular members to bring forward some names, and as such we do have weekly conversations with the Prime Minister's Office to ensure that the appointments of that as well as the others are top of mind.

Every channel we use we continue to promote the importance and urgency to do the appointments for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your first supplementary, Ms. Brewster.

**Ms. Brewster:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm still not clear on what the delay is. Mr. Speaker, on April 17 of this year the Premier issued a news release in which he reacted to the recent federal budget by publicly stating that the Government of Nunavut is eager for details on federal budget investments in housing and Arctic infrastructure, and is awaiting details on funding for housing, green energy, and infrastructure.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker that does not sound like Ottawa has been keeping our government particularly well informed.

**Hon. Marc Gold (Government Representative in the Senate):** Thank you for the question. The numbers you shared with us aren't simply disappointing, they're downright unacceptable in a country like ours. The government recognizes the challenges facing Canadians. However, the government rejects your reasoning that its economic policies are to blame. What the government is doing, and will continue to do in its budgets, is to provide support not only to Canadians, individually, but also to organizations that provide assistance to our fellow Canadians in need.

**Senator Carignan:** Thank you. The International Monetary Fund has stated that, after increasing the capital gains tax, Canada should now increase the GST. Senator Gold, does your government intend to increase the GST, by how much, and when?

**Senator Gold:** Obviously, you were not here yesterday, or maybe you didn't like my answer. Yesterday, I answered that, according to my information, the government has no intention of raising the GST.

[English]

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### FIREARMS LEGISLATION

**Hon. Marty Deacon:** Senator Gold, late last year during our committee hearings on Bill C-21, Minister LeBlanc submitted in writing guarantees around sport shooting.

As our shooting athletes prepare for Paris 2024, I have certainly been challenged on this bill. Minister LeBlanc wrote:

I want to assure the committee that consultations will take place to clearly establish the process for the elite sport shooter exemption. . . . This exemption must apply to those who are currently representing Canada, and those who are training . . . . There must be a pathway for the next generation.

My question today is this: Has the government established an exemption and regulations yet? If so, have any been granted for our athletes at every level of competition?

**Hon. Marc Gold (Government Representative in the Senate):** It's my understanding, senator, that the work is still under way for the regulations that are related to Bill C-21. However, I have every confidence that Minister LeBlanc will deliver on his commitment.

**Senator M. Deacon:** Thank you. Do you have a sense with the work being done when we can tell athletes that something will be in place to review?

**Senator Gold:** I'm not aware of the timeline, senator. I'll certainly raise this with the minister.

## PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE

### SENATE APPOINTMENTS

**Hon. Pat Duncan:** My question is also for the Government Representative in the Senate.

Senator Gold, Nunavut has not had a senator since the retirement of our colleague Dennis Patterson. There are only two federal representatives for each territory. The need for full representation in the other place and here is critical.

Nunavut's two members of the Independent Advisory Board for Senate Appointments were appointed in February. Would you please provide us with a progress report on the appointment of a Nunavut senator?

**Hon. Marc Gold (Government Representative in the Senate):** Thank you for the question. Because of the nature of the process — which, as you know, is an open and transparent process, but one that is otherwise not one in which I am involved — I cannot give you a progress report with regard to your particular question.

My understanding, colleagues, is that most of the committees responsible for reviewing applications and making their recommendations have been established. Many, indeed, have completed their work.

I can also assure this chamber the government is both aware of and committed to filling vacancies in a timely manner, but, unfortunately, we'll have to wait for an announcement to know exactly when the senator will be appointed.

**Senator Duncan:** Senator Gold, with small populations spread over a large area, even one vacancy at a senior level can cause challenges. It makes public sector work difficult and challenging.

The Deputy Commissioner of Nunavut has not been appointed. The Chief Justice for Nunavut has also not been appointed. One vacancy at any level is essential for legislatures.

Can you advise on these appointments, or can you ask that they be moved to the top of the appointment pile?

**Senator Gold:** Thank you for your question and for underlining the importance — in Nunavut and, indeed, everywhere — of filling senior appointments in a timely fashion with the best people available. I'll certainly raise this with the minister.

[Translation]

## CANADIAN HERITAGE

### OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

**Hon. Jean-Guy Dagenais:** My question is for the Leader of the Government. I voted in favour of Bill C-13 on official languages because I wanted to give your government a chance to improve things. Unfortunately, I'm starting to regret that decision, especially when I learned this morning that, according















Le 31 juillet 2024

Le très honorable Justin Trudeau, C.P., député  
Premier ministre du Canada  
Cabinet du premier ministre  
Chambre des communes  
Ottawa (Ontario), K1A 0A6

Monsieur le Premier ministre,

Je vous écris en ma qualité de députée de l'Assemblée législative du Nunavut représentant la circonscription d'Iqaluit-Sinaa pour vous demander instamment de prendre des mesures décisives et immédiates afin de veiller à ce que trois postes clés nommés par le gouvernement fédéral dans le territoire soient pourvus le plus rapidement possible.

Comme vous le savez, le Nunavut est privé de commissaire adjoint depuis avril 2023, de sénateur depuis décembre 2023 et de juge en chef depuis avril de cette année. Je suis convaincue que vous conviendrez qu'il est inacceptable qu'un territoire comme le Nunavut continue d'être privé d'un sénateur, d'un juge en chef et d'un commissaire adjoint pendant de longues périodes.

Comme vous le constaterez dans les extraits ci-joints des Hansards du Nunavut et du Sénat, de sérieuses préoccupations continuent d'être soulevées par moi-même et par d'autres représentants territoriaux et fédéraux concernant ces postes vacants. Comme vous le comprendrez, ces postes vacants posent des risques importants, et je vous invite à répondre à la présente correspondance en indiquant clairement à quel moment les nominations auront lieu.

Je vous prie d'agréer, monsieur le premier ministre, l'expression de mes sentiments distingués,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Janet Pitsiulaaq Brewster'.

Janet Pitsiulaaq Brewster, députée  
Iqaluit-Sinaa

c.c. Députée de la circonscription du Nunavut  
Sénateur représentant le Yukon  
Sénateur représentant les Territoires du Nord-Ouest  
Députés du Nunavut  
Maire d'Iqaluit

ses politiques budgétaires ne font rien d'autre que d'aggraver la pauvreté au Canada, et quand va-t-il s'inspirer de politiques de gros bon sens?

**L'honorable Marc Gold (représentant du gouvernement au Sénat) :** Je vous remercie pour la question. Les chiffres que vous avez partagés avec nous sont non seulement décevants, mais inacceptables dans un pays comme le nôtre. Le gouvernement reconnaît les défis auxquels font face les Canadiens et les Canadiennes. Le gouvernement n'accepte cependant pas la façon dont vous avez conclu que c'est à cause des politiques économiques de ce gouvernement. Ce que le gouvernement fait et va continuer de faire dans ses budgets, c'est de fournir de l'aide non seulement aux Canadiens individuellement, mais aussi aux organismes qui donnent du soutien à nos concitoyens qui en ont besoin.

**Le sénateur Carignan :** Merci. Le Fonds monétaire international a déclaré qu'après avoir augmenté les impôts sur le gain en capital, le Canada devra maintenant augmenter la TPS. Sénateur Gold, est-ce que votre gouvernement a effectivement l'intention d'augmenter la TPS, de combien, et quand?

**Le sénateur Gold :** Évidemment, vous n'étiez pas ici hier, ou ma réponse n'était peut-être pas à votre goût. J'ai répondu hier que, selon l'information que j'ai, le gouvernement n'a aucune intention d'augmenter la TPS.

[Traduction]

## LA SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

### LA LÉGISLATION SUR LES ARMES À FEU

**L'honorable Marty Deacon :** Sénateur Gold, à la fin de l'année dernière, au cours des audiences de notre comité sur le projet de loi C-21, le ministre LeBlanc a présenté par écrit des garanties concernant le tir sportif.

Alors que nos athlètes de tir sportif se préparent aux Jeux olympiques de 2024, à Paris, on me pose beaucoup de questions par rapport à ce projet de loi. Le ministre LeBlanc a déclaré :

Je tiens à assurer le Comité que des consultations auront lieu afin d'établir clairement le processus d'exemption pour les tireurs sportifs d'élite [...] cette exemption doit s'appliquer à ceux qui représentent actuellement le Canada et à ceux qui s'entraînent [...] Il doit y avoir une voie d'accès pour la prochaine génération.

La question que j'aimerais vous poser aujourd'hui est la suivante : le gouvernement a-t-il déjà établi une exemption dans les règlements et, dans l'affirmative, a-t-il accordé cette exemption à nos athlètes à tous les niveaux de compétition?

**L'honorable Marc Gold (représentant du gouvernement au Sénat) :** À ce que je comprends, sénatrice, on travaille encore à l'élaboration des règlements liés au projet de loi C-21. Cela dit, je suis convaincu que le ministre LeBlanc honorera sa promesse.

**La sénatrice M. Deacon :** Merci. Compte tenu des travaux en cours, avez-vous une idée de la date à laquelle nous pourrions dire aux athlètes que la mesure est en place pour qu'ils puissent en prendre connaissance?

**Le sénateur Gold :** Je ne suis pas au courant de l'échéancier, sénatrice. Je vais certainement soulever la question auprès du ministre.

## LE BUREAU DU CONSEIL PRIVÉ

### LES NOMINATIONS AU SÉNAT

**L'honorable Pat Duncan :** Ma question s'adresse elle aussi au leader du gouvernement au Sénat.

Sénateur Gold, le Nunavut n'est représenté par aucun sénateur depuis la retraite de notre collègue Dennis Patterson. Il n'y a que deux représentants fédéraux par territoire. Il est essentiel d'avoir une représentation complète ici et à l'autre endroit.

Les deux membres du Nunavut du Comité consultatif indépendant sur les nominations au Sénat ont été nommés en février dernier. Pourriez-vous nous présenter un rapport d'étape concernant la nomination d'un sénateur du Nunavut?

**L'honorable Marc Gold (représentant du gouvernement au Sénat) :** Je vous remercie de la question. En raison de la nature du processus — qui, comme vous le savez, est ouvert et transparent, mais auquel je ne participe pas —, il m'est impossible de vous fournir un rapport d'étape en ce qui concerne votre question.

Selon ce que j'ai compris, chers collègues, la plupart des comités chargés d'examiner les demandes et de procéder à des recommandations ont été constitués, et plusieurs ont terminé leurs travaux.

Je peux assurer au Sénat que le gouvernement sait qu'il y a des postes vacants et est déterminé à les pourvoir en temps opportun, mais nous devons malheureusement attendre une annonce pour savoir exactement à quelle date le sénateur sera nommé.

**La sénatrice Duncan :** Sénateur Gold, avec une faible population dispersée sur un vaste territoire, un seul siège vacant aux échelons supérieurs peut entraîner des difficultés. Cette situation complique le travail de la fonction publique.

Le commissaire adjoint du Nunavut n'a pas été nommé ni le juge en chef, d'ailleurs. Or, n'importe quel poste vacant est un poste essentiel pour les assemblées législatives.

Pouvez-vous nous dire où en sont ces nominations, ou pouvez-vous demander à ce qu'elles soient portées au haut de la liste des priorités?

**Le sénateur Gold :** Je vous remercie de votre question et de souligner l'importance — au Nunavut et partout ailleurs — de pourvoir les postes de cadres supérieurs en temps opportun et de trouver les meilleurs candidats possible. Je vais certainement porter cette question à l'attention du ministre.

[Français]

## LE PATRIMOINE CANADIEN

### LES LANGUES OFFICIELLES

**L'honorable Jean-Guy Dagenais :** Ma question s'adresse au leader du gouvernement. J'ai voté en faveur du projet de loi C-13 sur les langues officielles en voulant donner une chance à votre gouvernement d'améliorer les choses. Malheureusement, je commence à le regretter, surtout ce matin, quand j'ai appris que, selon Postes Canada, le français n'est plus obligatoire pour devenir facteur au Québec. Après la gouverneure générale et la lieutenant-gouverneure du Nouveau-Brunswick qui ne parlent pas