



Hamlet of Kugaaruk

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Joseph Inagayuk Quqqiaq
MLA for Netsilik
6th Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
P.O. Box 166
Taloyoak, NU X0B 1B0
Phone: (867) 561-6243

Dear MLA Quqqiaq,

We are writing to express concern on behalf of the community of Kugaaruk regarding the weather observer function at the airport in Kugaaruk (and across Nunavut). Reliable weather observation is critical for the coordination of emergency medical evacuations (Medevac) at our local airport, where timely weather reports can mean the difference between life and death for patients needing urgent care.

Currently, the weather observer function is contracted to a third party under the oversight of Nav Canada, a change from when the Hamlet previously held this contract. Unfortunately, we are facing significant challenges in obtaining timely and accurate weather reports, which are essential for facilitating nighttime Medevac landings and take-offs. The ongoing lapses in communication due to underfunding are compromising our ability to maintain essential healthcare services in the community.

It has come to our attention that the current funding for the weather observer function may not adequately cover the costs associated with after-hours call-outs, making it difficult to retain qualified staff. Additionally, many potential weather observers in our community are opting for positions at local Co-ops or Northern Stores, where they can earn higher hourly wages and enjoy better working hours without the demands of overnight call-outs. This trend raises significant concerns about the safety and well-being of our community.

