

**Response to Standing Committee on
Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts**

Submitted by the Representative for Children and Youth's Office

September 4, 2024



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REPRÉSENTANT DE
L'ENFANCE ET DE LA JEUNESSE

REPRESENTATIVE FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Representative for Children and Youth's Office (RCYO) extends its thanks to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts (standing committee) for providing the opportunity to discuss our work. We are pleased to provide the following response to the standing committee's *Report on the Review of the 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Annual Reports of Nunavut's Representative for Children and Youth*.

The standing committee's feedback was incorporated into the 2023-2024 RCYO Annual Report.

1. That the Representative for Children and Youth ensure that any statistics published in the Office's annual report be consistent with respect to the year for which the data is reported and ensure that all supporting information is factual and current.

Response:

The RCYO agrees with the standing committee's recommendation.

The Representative for Children and Youth Annual Report for 2023-2024, *Status of Young Nunavummiut* section reports data for a five-year period. In the future, only statistics that are available for the fiscal year we are reporting on will be included. If statistics are not available for the fiscal year it will be indicated in the report as (-) Data not available. If historical data is necessary to provide context in the absence of current data, RCYO will indicate clearly that the data is not from the current fiscal year.

Given the importance of having up-to date, accurate data to make informed decisions about services that meet the needs of young Nunavummiut, the Representative for Children and Youth encourages the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIA) to prioritize addressing the challenges experienced by the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics.

2. That the departments of Education, Family Services, Health and Justice continue to collaborate with the Representative for Children and Youth to ensure that requests for information and data reports align more closely with the way data is collected at the departmental level and to include any additional data that may be relevant to the work of the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth.

Response:

The RCYO agrees with the standing committee's recommendation.

When the RCYO reaches out to departments to collect statistical information for the "Status of Young Nunavummiut" section, departments are asked to advise the RCYO of the following:

- If any information requested is not collected, incomplete, or cannot be reported on, please indicate why and if there are plans in place to collect that data in the future.
- If a data set is not representative of fiscal year reporting (e.g., calendar year) please indicate.
- If any information submitted involves a calculation (e.g., an average) please explain how the calculation was done and the data involved.

- If the format of any reported information changes from one year to the next (e.g., from a number to a percentage) please indicate why.
- If any information reported remains the same from one year to the next, please indicate why (e.g., has the data not changed or is it a carry over from the previous year as no new data was collected).
- For all information requested within this letter, we also ask that you indicate:
 - If the information provided is publicly available or not
 - If publicly available, please indicate where and provide a website link
 - If not publicly available, please indicate why

In the future, the RCYO will request that departments include any additional data that may be relevant to the work of the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth and recommendations for better data collection by the RCYO.

3. That the Representative for Children and Youth ensure that analysis of the various data sets published in the Annual Reports is undertaken to determine trends and to inform service delivery providers of areas of growing concern or specific service delivery areas in need of improvement.

Response:

The RCYO agrees with the standing committee’s recommendation.

As noted by the Representative at standing committee, RCYO staff have already initiated actions to allow more robust reporting and analysis.

The RCYO has been collecting data from departments for five years. In the 2023-2024 Annual Report, we analyzed the various datasets to identify trends and areas of concern.

Incomplete, inaccurate, and out of date statistics make it challenging to identify trends and areas of concern. As much of the information provided by the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics is out of date by more than four years, the RCYO looked to other sources for the 2023-2024 Annual Report to provide the General Nunavut Statistics part of the Status of Young Nunavummiut section.

4. That the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth expand its communication and collaboration activities to involve more youth from across the territory.

Response:

The RCYO agrees with the standing committee’s recommendation.

In the 2023-2024, fiscal year the RCYO completed 4 community engagement visits: Kimmirut, Kugaaruk, Taloyoak and Kinngait. Except for in Kinngait, the Raise Your Voice: Self Advocacy Workshop was delivered. The goal of this workshop is to educate young people about their rights and responsibilities and to encourage confidence with self-advocacy skills.

This fiscal year, 2024-2025 the RCYO has completed 2 community engagement visits: Artic Bay and Igloolik. The RCYO's aim is to travel to all of Nunavut's communities once every two years, this is dependent on having adequate staffing.

The RCYO is evaluating establishing a Youth Advisory Council. It is our intent to use the Department of Health's, Mental Health youth advisory committee as a model.

The RCYO appreciates the feedback provided by the standing committee in support of *piliriatigiinniq*, working together for the common cause and *pijitsirniq*, serving and providing for family and community, and all child rights as detailed in the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

We will continue to reflect on and action the advice of the standing committee as our advocacy services evolve to meet the needs of young Nunavummiut and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jane Bates". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "B".

Jane Bates

Representative for Children and Youth