



April 7, 2026

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Carney:

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Member of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut representing the constituency of Amittuq.

As you will appreciate, your government's recent announcements concerning increased federal investments in Arctic security and sovereignty have been very much welcomed by Nunavummiut across the territory. These include the announcement of March 12, 2026, which indicated that \$35.0 billion will be invested in initiatives to "defend, build, and transform Canada's Northern and Arctic region."

I am pleased to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the following passage from the Commissioner of Nunavut's recent Opening Address, which was delivered on the occasion of the opening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 7<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly:

"This mandate recognizes that the Arctic is becoming a central focus of national and international interest, particularly in the area of sovereignty and security. Our government is advocating to ensure that federal initiatives reflect the needs and priorities of Nunavut, and that investments strengthen our communities in practical ways."

I am also pleased to take this opportunity to write in support of the community of Sanirajak's longstanding call for the establishment of permanent search and rescue facilities and assets in our region of the territory.

The importance of Sanirajak's strategic and central location has long been recognized. I am pleased to note that the Nunavut Association of Municipalities recently passed a formal Resolution at its 2024 annual general meeting concerning this issue.

The Resolution states, in part, that:

"Whereas the establishment of a centralized Emergency Measures Services (EMS) hub is essential for efficient emergency response across Nunavut; and whereas Sanirajak offers suitable infrastructure to support EMS operations, including available accommodations, a hangar for aircraft, and a runway capable of handling jets and Hercules planes, which is vital for rapid deployment during emergencies. Therefore, be it resolved that the Nunavut Association of Municipalities formally supports the Hamlet of Sanirajak's proposal to become the designated EMS hub for the Nunavut region."

There have been a number of search and rescue incidents in the vicinity of Sanirajak and Igloolik in recent years. One of these incidents resulted in the tragic loss of life of a SAR Tech officer. I note that the 2024 edition of *The State of Search and Rescue in Nunavut* describe a recent search and rescue operation near Sanirajak:

"In March of 2023, three harvesters - Joey Sarpinak, Sandy Kunuk, and 15-year-old John Kirk Amagoalik - left the community in a small aluminum boat to hunt walrus near the floe edge. Spotting a walrus, Kunuk shot at it three times before preparing a harpoon. At that moment, however, the wounded walrus surfaced at the back of the boat and began climbing on board, perhaps mistaking it for ice. The weight of the walrus caused the boat to capsize, and the three hunters were thrown into the water. Incredibly, despite being bogged down by their heavy clothing, each hunter was able to climb aboard the overturned hull. Still within cell phone range of the community, the three men were able to report their situation. Sanirajak's community SAR coordinator, George Innuksuk, immediately mobilized his volunteers ... they brainstormed solutions for how to get a rope across to the stranded hunters, while the duty officer looked for air support, though he could find no helicopters with the hoist capability required to pluck the men from the capsized boat. Unfortunately, Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC) Trenton was only informed of the case four hours after the first distress call, causing a significant delay in deploying RCAF SAR aerial assets to the case."

I recently tabled a number of documents in the Legislative Assembly concerning this important issue, which I am pleased to attach to this correspondence for your ease of reference.

I strongly encourage the Government of Canada to work closely with the Government of Nunavut and the Municipality of Sanirajak to establish permanent search and rescue infrastructure and assets in the community.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,



Abraham Qammaniq, MLA  
Amittuq

c.c. Premier of Nunavut  
Minister of National Defence  
Minister responsible for Nunavut Emergency Management  
Mayor and Council, Municipality of Sanirajak  
President, Nunavut Association of Municipalities









**Resolution: Designating Sanirajak as the Regional Hub for Emergency Measures Services in Nunavut**

**Resolution Number: AGM 24-09**

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**Title: Proposal to Establish Sanirajak as the Central Location for Nunavut Emergency Measures Services (EMS)**

**WHEREAS:**

1. The establishment of a centralized Emergency Measures Services (EMS) hub is essential for efficient emergency response across Nunavut.
2. Sanirajak offers suitable infrastructure to support EMS operations, including available accommodations, a hangar for aircraft, and a runway capable of handling jets and Hercules planes, which is vital for rapid deployment during emergencies.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The Nunavut Association of Municipalities (NAM) formally supports the Hamlet of Sanirajak's proposal to become the designated EMS hub for the Nunavut region. Specifically:

1. NAM will advocate to the Government of Nunavut and relevant federal agencies for the establishment of an EMS base in Sanirajak to serve the entire territory.
2. NAM will highlight Sanirajak's existing infrastructure as an ideal location for EMS, allowing for efficient response and resource mobilization during emergencies.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:**

1. NAM will work in collaboration with the Hamlet of Sanirajak, emergency services stakeholders, and government authorities to assess the logistical and operational requirements for establishing an EMS hub.
2. NAM will support efforts to secure the necessary funding, resources, and personnel to establish a fully operational EMS facility in Sanirajak.

**Supporting Information:**

- **Rationale:** Establishing an EMS hub in Sanirajak provides a centralized, well-equipped location for rapid emergency response, benefiting all Nunavut communities by enhancing readiness and response capabilities.
- **Financial Impact:** Funding will be required for facility upgrades, staffing, and ongoing maintenance. However, these costs are offset by the benefits of a streamlined emergency response system.

- ***Expected Benefits: Improved emergency response times, a centralized location for EMS resources, and enhanced safety***



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February 4, 2026

Hamlet of Iqaluit

Attention: Mayor and Council

[Dear Sir/Madam]

**Re: Search and Rescue Base in Hamlet of Sanirajak**

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I am providing this letter seeking support from you with respect to the development of a Search and Rescue base in Sanirajak. As you are aware, the Nunavut Association of Municipalities passed a resolution in November 2024 in support of the initiative. Moreover, Sanirajak Council also passed a resolution in support of the Search and Rescue base in Sanirajak.

Current search and rescue coordination for Nunavut is covered by joint rescue coordination centers in either Trenton, Ontario or Halifax, Nova Scotia. We are all aware of the significant delay associated with meaningful responses to search and rescue given the locations of our respective municipalities in Nunavut. Much more rapid search and rescue capabilities are necessary and this, of course, was discussed and confirmed at the Nunavut Associations of Municipalities meeting in November 2024. The Hamlet of Sanirajak, given the support confirmed at the NAM meeting is currently moving forward in its efforts to develop a Search and Rescue base in Sanirajak. I am asking that you provide a letter of support for this initiative which will be shared with the Territorial Government along with the Government of Canada. In this regard, we can advise that the MLA for Amittuq, Abraham Qammaniq has already provided such a letter of support.

We look forward to hearing from you in relation to this very important initiative as we all seek to provide further safety and security to our respective communities and for all residents of Nunavut.

Yours truly,

Mayor of Sanirajak  
Manasee Ulayuk,