



## **Return to Written Question**

**Asked by: Tony Akoak, MLA**

**Asked of: Hon. Paul Quassa, MLA  
Premier**

**Number: 005-5(2)**

**Date: May 8, 2018**

**Subject: Government of Nunavut Responses to the Resolutions  
Adopted at the 2016 and 2017 Annual General Meetings of the  
Kitikmeot Inuit Association**

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### **Question:**

What were the Government of Nunavut's responses to the resolutions adopted at the 2016 and 2017 Annual General Meetings of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association?

### **Response:**

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to compile the Government of Nunavut's responses to the resolutions adopted at the Kitikmeot Inuit Association 2016 and 2017 Annual General Meetings.

**2016**

### **Resolution #15/16: Support for the Grays Bay Port and Road Project**

The Government of Nunavut has supported the Grays Bay Road and Port project financially, in-kind, and in principle through all of its development stages to date, including through the initiation of the Environmental Assessment process, and through a proposal to the National Trade Corridors Fund.

Effective March, 2018, the Government of Nunavut has reviewed its priorities, and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association and the Government of Nunavut have mutually agreed that the project will be advanced solely by the KIA, and that the Government of Nunavut will continue to provide support in principle for the project.

### **Resolution #16/16: Multi-year funding**

The Financial Administration Act allows for multi-year funding where warranted, subject to approval of annual appropriations by the Legislative Assembly. However, convenience for proponents needs to be balanced with not limiting the government's flexibility to adjust its financial obligations as fiscal circumstances change.

Individual departments need to review requests on a case by case basis, and where warranted adjust their contribution policies to incorporate multiyear funding.

### **Resolution #17/16: Air service in the Kitikmeot region**

The Government of Nunavut supports the Kitikmeot Inuit Association's desire for improved services in the region. The GN also recognizes that decisions on scheduling and frequency can affect the cost of travel, and has engaged Lufthansa Consulting to assist in ensuring that government contracts for travel do not bring about unintended negative results.

### **Resolution #18/16: Women's resolution**

*Explore Opportunities to offer Educational Awareness programs (e.g., drug & alcohol abuse, elder abuse, financial abuse)*

- The Department of Family Services' Social Services staff are available 24 hours a day to offer counseling and guidance to persons' experiencing violence, addictions, or other vulnerable situations. Situations of elder abuse, drug and alcohol abuse are dealt with in a proactive manner.
- The Department's Community Social Service Workers collaborate with other service providers including the schools, nurses and RCMP to provide information and services towards prevention and intervention to deal with these issues.

*Support for Women and Girls Facing Violence to Build Health Relationships*

- The Department of Family Services provides financial support to three Family Violence Shelters in the Kitikmeot that offer emergency shelter and support for women and children. This year, the Department increased funding for Family Violence Shelters by 13%, up to \$1M for 2016/17 compared to \$887K in 2015/16. Facilities in the Kitikmeot include:

- Cambridge Bay – St. Michael’s Crisis Shelter - \$320,000.
- Kugluktuk – Hamlet of Kugluktuk Safe Shelter - \$320,000.
- Kugaaruk – Tammaaqvik Women’s Shelter - \$360,000.
- The Department of Family Services works with Family Violence Shelters in the Kitikmeot region to provide information and material on healthy relationships, safety planning and self-care that shelters can distribute in the communities. These shelters also provide counselling for women and girls facing violence to assist women in making healthy relationship choices.
- The Department of Family Services (DFS) currently provides \$250,000 annually to the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council whose mandate is to advance the goal of equal participation of women in society and promote changes in social, legal and economic structures to that end.
- DFS also provides \$50,000 in grants through the Women’s Initiatives Grants Program to individuals, community non-profit organizations, and municipal corporations that direct their efforts to promoting women’s empowerment in Nunavut. The program provides funding for projects that promote women’s leadership skills, employability, economic self-sufficiency, wellness, self-reliance and traditional knowledge.

*Explore feasibility to establish Men’s Shelter in the Kitikmeot starting with Men’s Support Programming.*

- The Department of Family Services (DFS) recognizes the need for services for men and boys. The Department is currently planning regional gatherings to bring together community representatives to discuss men and boys programming and identify service gaps and opportunities for improved programming.
- DFS held a gathering on men and boys programming in Iqaluit for the Qikiqtaaluk Region in October 2016 and plans to hold a gathering in the Kitikmeot Region in Winter 2017.
- DFS worked with the Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre and municipality to open a men’s emergency homeless shelter, Omingmak Shelter, and to help the Wellness Centre access Government of Canada funding for homelessness initiatives.
- The Cambridge Bay Hamlet Council made a decision in August to allocate 22B Omingmak to be used as the men’s emergency homeless shelter. The Department is working with the Hamlet to get an inspection and scope of work completed on the unit.

## **Resolution #19/16: Youth resolution**

- The Government of Nunavut's department of Culture and Heritage helps fund initiatives that contribute toward promotion and preservation of Nunavut's culture, heritage and language.
- For example, the Elder and Youth Facilities contribution program is available for the development and/or renovations of Elders and Youth facilities or relevant associated equipment. You can get more information on the application process via our website ([HTTP://www.gov.nu.ca/CH](http://www.gov.nu.ca/CH)) or via our toll free line at: 1-866-934-2035.
- There is also grant and contribution funding available from our Culture and Heritage programs, and, the Youth Initiatives programs that offer funding for projects such as Sewing, Tool making, Land Camps with Inuktut Immersion and Inuit Youth Leadership Training.
- In the program area, Culture and Heritage offers a survival skills workshop and On-The-Land program for various communities. The Elders and Youth Division plans to make this an ongoing initiative. Nunavummiut have concerns that they are losing their Elders who have extensive traditional knowledge on our history, culture, traditional values and language.
- The Nunavut Legal Registries from the Department of Justice is responsible for those who wish to become a society.

### *Exploring the development of Youth "Safe Houses."*

- The Government of Nunavut department of Family Services (DFS) currently provides funding toward the operation of 5 Family Violence Shelters in Nunavut that offer emergency housing and supports to both women and children.
- DFS also provides funding for the operations of the Sivummut House homelessness shelter for women and children in Iqaluit and the Cambridge Bay Omingmak Shelter.
- DFS does not currently provide funding for shelters specifically designed for youth.

### *Develop Inuit Youth Leadership Training specifically linked to Youth Society Development as an end goal*

### *Continue to provide, develop and evolve Youth Language Learning Programs.*

- The Department of Family Services (DFS) does not currently provide funding for services or programs to in-school youth.

- DFS does support youth through programs that encourage employment, training, and entrepreneurship.
- Through the Summer Employment for Nunavut Students (SENS) program, DFS supports high school and post-secondary students obtain summer employment. The program is intended to provide on-the-job training and mentorship to eligible youth through summer work experience.
- DFS also provides funding to the *Inspire Nunavut* program which is an entrepreneurship and employment training program that targets youth facing multiple barriers to employment. The program is designed to inspire, educate and support youth in Nunavut who want to become entrepreneurs. The program is currently being offered in Iqaluit and Pond Inlet.

*Promote Educational Opportunities such as FANS to Youth in the Kitikmeot*

- The Department of Family Services' Career Development Officers travel to all communities at least twice a year to deliver presentations at schools about the education and training opportunities offered by the Department. Staff from the Department's FANS office also travel to communities to deliver presentations about the financial support offered by the program at Community Learning Centres and Schools.
- The Department provides comprehensive information about the FANS program on its website, and operates a 1-800 number for the FANS program which provides access from anywhere in Nunavut.
- The Department also promotes its skill development programs and funding support through the FANS program by distributing brochures and other promotional materials, which are distributed at public events and DFS offices.
- The Department staffs 3 Career Development Officers in the Kitikmeot regions whom are available to provide information to youth about the training and financial support for education and training.

*Connect Suicide Prevention Initiatives to Kitikmeot communities to provide support for families and communities dealing with the effects of suicide.*

- To support the Government of Nunavut's one-year *Resiliency Within Action Plan*, the Department of Family Services received \$419,000 in one time funding in fiscal year 2016/17 to support suicide prevention initiatives.
- A portion of the funding will support the Inunnguiniq Parenting Program Facilitator Training.

- The Parenting Program, based on needs identified by Nunavummiut, includes Inuit perspectives on child-rearing, roles of parents, stages of development, positive discipline methods, wellness counselling, and healing from trauma. Elders participate in the delivery of the workshop.
- The Department will also use this funding to undertake initiatives to address child sexual abuse.

### **Resolution #20/16: Search and Rescue**

- All Search and Rescue units in Nunavut have been supplied with the basic equipment and training to conduct a search and rescue operation. Training is ongoing and each year 8 communities, on a rotational basis, are offered a course in basic search and rescue, as well as a course for search coordinators.
- Communities are asked by CGS to update the list of the equipment supplied to them, and any missing or damaged equipment is replaced as soon as fiscally possible. The new search and rescue policy allows the GN to transfer surplus government ATV's to communities where GN-owned surplus equipment exists, or to other communities where there is a greater need.
- Under the new policy there would be an increase in the allowable amount that can be expended on a local community search, and the procedures around aircraft charters for search and rescue are more clear. A letter to all Mayors and SAO's was sent to all communities along with a copy of the new policy.
- Nunavut Emergency Management recommends that each community set up its own search and rescue society. Once the society is registered they can submit a request for annual funds as outlined in the policy. All funding is subject to Nunavut Emergency Management having the funds available within its budget.

### **Resolution #21/16: Elders' resolution**

- The Department of Culture and Heritage helps fund initiatives that contributes to the promotion and preservation of Nunavut's culture, heritage and language.
- For example, the Elder and Youth Facilities contribution program is available for the development and/or renovations of Elders and Youth facilities or relevant associated equipment. You can get more information on the application process via our website ([HTTP://www.gov.nu.ca/CH](http://www.gov.nu.ca/CH)) or via our toll free line at : 1-866-934-2035.
- There is also grant and contribution funding available from our Culture and Heritage programs and Youth Initiatives programs that offer funding for projects such as Hunting, Fishing, Sewing, and Inuit Youth Leadership Training.

- There is a contribution program available from our Inuit Language Promotion and Protection Contribution program for language recovery and revitalization project on Inuinnaqtun.
- From our Youth and Elders Committees grant program, community-based non-profit Youth and Elders Committees, including municipal corporations acting on their behalf, can apply from it to support these committees in Nunavut.
- In the program area, Culture and Heritage offers a survival skills workshop and On-The-Land program for various communities. The Elders and Youth Division plans to make this an ongoing initiative. Nunavummiut have concerns that they are losing their Elders who have extensive traditional knowledge on our history, culture, traditional values and language.
- The Nunavut Legal Registries from the Department of Justice is responsible for those who wish to become a society.

*To ensure adequate home care services in all communities for Elders and to ensure there is long term care facilities in each community for Elders who are not able to live on their own.*

- The Department of Family Services co-leads this file with the Department of Health
- The Department of Family Services (DFS) provides support to Elders whose care needs are Levels 1 and 2 in nature.
- The three Elders' homes funded by DFS support a total number of 24 Elders. They receive the following annual funding from DFS:
  - Arviat - Andy Aulatjuit Centre (operated by Pimaksirvik Corporation) - \$967,024.36;
  - Baker Lake - Martha Talirug Centre (operated by the Baker Lake Hospice Society) - \$1,050,675 (please note that with that money they also operate the home care program, Elder lunch program, shelter and palliative program);
  - Iqaluit Elders Home (operated by Pairjait Tigumavik Society) - \$1,045,000 (please note that the funding also supports an Elder lunch program and transportation for residents).

*Financial support for operations and maintenance funding for Elders buildings in Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven.*

- The Department of Health operates the Continuing Care Facilities in Igloolik and Gjoa Haven.

*Address Elder verbal, physical and financial abuse that exists in our communities.*

- The Department of Justice is the primary Department responsible for this work.

### **Resolution #22/16: Suicide Prevention**

*Connect with Existing programming from the Embrace Life Council and the need to connect directly with Inuit in the Kitikmeot.*

- The Department of Family Services works with the Embrace Life Council. We are currently working together to child sexual abuse in Nunavut, which is a risk factor for suicide in the territory.
- The Kitikmeot Inuit Association has representation on the Embrace Life Council Board of Directors who should be aware of the ongoing collaboration between DFS and Embrace Life Council.

*Plan in partnership a Suicide Prevention Mandate in connection with the communities of the Kitikmeot.*

- The Department of Health, through the Quality of Life Secretariat, is the lead on this item.

*Ensure that the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategies and National Strategies create an action plan in partnership with communities of the Kitikmeot.*

- The Department of Health, through the Quality of Life Secretariat, is the lead on this item.
- The Department of Health works closely with the Embrace Life Council, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, as well as the departments of Family Services, Education, Culture and Heritage, and Justice on life affirmation and suicide prevention initiatives. Implementation of the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy Action Plan is done through the Quality of Life Secretariat. In June 2017, the five-year suicide prevention action plan, *Inuusivut Anninaqtuq*, was released to continue the implementation of the jury's recommendations and build on the successes of the previous action. Among other things, it provides significant funding for community-led action for suicide prevention.
- In the Kitikmeot region, the Cambridge Bay Mental Health Facility provides residential treatment, out-patient day programming, and drop-in support for clients. Programs and services delivered at this facility are evidence-informed and reflect the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Guiding Principles.

- The Department of Health continues to implement territory-wide mental health promotion projects that connect with community wellness initiatives. These projects are focused on positive mental health education, literacy, child sexual abuse prevention, and community wellness. The following support services are available to Nunavummiut at the community level:
  - Mental health assessment; monitoring and case management;
  - Mental Health and addictions counselling;
  - Crisis intervention;
  - Suicide risk assessment/safety planning;
  - Appointment with visiting psychiatrists for patients;
  - Referral for treatment within Nunavut;
  - Referral for out-of-territory care; and
  - Access to the Nunavut Kamatsiaqtut Help Line and the Elders' Support Line.
  
- Additionally, \$1.3M is available to Hamlets, upon application, to deliver alcohol and drug counselling services. Among the seven communities currently accessing this funding are Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk. Community mental health and addictions outreach workers will ensure a recovery-focused approach to treatment that engages family, community, and natural supports in all aspects of the healing and recovery journey.

## 2017

### **Resolution #13/17: Long Term Care Centre and** **Resolution# 21/17: Elders**

The Department of Health is committed to providing care to Nunavummiut who require ongoing supports in their home, supportive living arrangements, or 24/7 access to nurses and supportive care that cannot be provided in their homes. The Continuing Care Centres (CCC) in Gjoa Haven, Igloodik and Cambridge Bay provide 24/7 nursing and personal care to elders and other adults who require a higher level of support than provided in the three Elders' Homes. The Cambridge Bay CCC added 19 full time jobs to the staffing complement in Cambridge Bay; 14 of which are staffed by Nunavut Inuit.

In the event that extended family and the local service system can no longer meet the needs of a client, Health works together with the client and their family to explore care options and develop a care plan. The Home and Community Care program provides health care and support services, based on assessed needs, in the comfort of an individual's home. Home and Community Care includes services such as: case management, home making, personal care, nursing care, respite care, palliative care, rehabilitation services, foot care, and personal care. The HCC program supports an equipment loan program, as well as the purchasing of required medical materials and supplies. A chronic disease education and training fund provided by Health Canada

supports learning opportunities for Home Care Nurses (HCN) and Health provides education and training opportunities to all employees in the HCC program.

Some Nunavummiut living with dementia have complex needs that require care from professionals with specialized training in a specialized setting. Currently, there is no long-term residential care facility specifically for individuals with a dementia-related illness in Nunavut. Until in-territory care is established, placement of Nunavummiut living with dementia in specialized care facilities outside of the territory is essential to ensuring safe and appropriate care is provided. Currently, there are 26 Nunavummiut living with dementia are currently placed at Embassy West Senior Living in Ottawa, a specialized dementia care facility.

Providing interpretive services in Hospitals and Health Centres is vital to enhancing the quality of patient care. Medical Interpreting courses are open to the Department's clerk interpreters and other Health staff members who provide interpretation services to Nunavummiut. Twenty (20) Iqaluit Health Services staff members attended Medical Terminology training in fiscal year 2017/2018.

#### **Resolution #15/17: GN Department of Environment**

It is correct that the Government of Nunavut has discontinued the Community Harvesters Assistance Program (CHAP). CHAP was a NWT program that was in place since the 1980's. During a recent review of harvester support programs, the GN determined that some programs were outdated. The funding from CHAP has been reallocated to other areas including: increased core funding for HTOs and RWOs; and the creation of a new program to provide funding to active harvesters. Full details on the new programs will be released in the coming weeks/months.

#### **Resolution #22/10: Women**

1. *Work together to address the issues of homelessness and overcrowding. Need to find housing options for the region.*
  - The Department of Family Services' *Framework for Action for Nunavut's Absolute Homeless* focuses on emergency shelters, transitional housing and the coordination and creation of homelessness support services.
  - Framework actions to date include the partnership with the Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre that resulted in a men's emergency shelter that opened in December 2015. Additionally, the Department of Family Services continues to work closely with federal partners to secure resources for homelessness initiatives including accessing capital funding for the Cambridge Bay men's emergency homeless shelter.

- The Department, in partnership with the federal government, is conducting research on absolute and hidden homelessness. This research will help identify community-based solutions to Nunavut's housing crisis and identify supports for Nunavummiut who are experiencing homelessness.

2. *There is a need for shelters for men, and women for all Kitikmeot communities.*

- The Department of Family Services provides financial support to three Family Violence Shelters in the Kitikmeot that offer emergency shelter and support for women and children. In FY 2017/18, the Department provided \$1,010,000 in funding for Family Violence Shelters in the Kitikmeot.
- Facilities in the Kitikmeot include:
  - Cambridge Bay – St. Michael's Crisis Shelter - \$330,000.
  - Kugluktuk – Hamlet of Kugluktuk Safe Shelter - \$320,000.
  - Kugaaruk – Tammaaqvik Women's Shelter - \$360,000.
- The Department of Family Services works with Family Violence Shelters in the Kitikmeot region to provide information and material for shelters to distribute in the communities on healthy relationships, safety planning and self-care. These shelters also provide counselling for women and girls facing violence, to assist women in making healthy relationship choices.
- The Department of Family Services recognizes the need for services for men and boys. The Department coordinated three Regional Gatherings with key stakeholders who offer supports, programs and initiatives to men and boys. The Kitikmeot Regional Gathering was held in Cambridge Bay from September 5-6, 2017. 17 men participated; every community in the Kitikmeot Region was represented. The information shared during the Regional Gatherings will assist the Department in better understanding the needs of men and boys and targeting these specific needs through programming and services.
- The Department of Family Services supported the Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre's community-led initiative to open a men's emergency homeless shelter in Cambridge Bay. The Omingmak shelter opened on December 6, 2016.
- The Department is available to discuss initiatives brought forward by other communities in the Kitikmeot to address homelessness.

3. *Mental health is an issue in our communities, we must work together to find more support in our communities.*

- The Department of Health is the lead on this item.
4. *Elder abuse is an issue in the Kitikmeot region; we need to ensure that there are some supports, and programs to address elder abuse.*
- The Department of Justice is the primary Department responsible for this work.
  - The Department of Family Services' Social Services staff are available 24 hours a day to offer counseling and guidance to persons' experiencing violence, addictions, or other vulnerable situations. In situations of elder abuse, the Department's Community Social Service Workers collaborate with other service providers including the RCMP to provide information and services towards prevention and intervention to deal with these issues.
5. *Continue to find funds for sewing and cultural programs every year.*
- DFS provides \$50,000 in grants through the Women's Initiatives Grants Program to individuals, community non-profit organizations, and municipal corporations that direct their efforts to promoting women's empowerment in Nunavut. The program provides funding for projects that promote women's leadership skills, employability, economic self-sufficiency, wellness, self-reliance and traditional knowledge. Projects may include sewing and cultural programs, and on-the-land programming.
6. *Would like more programs to discuss seasonal calendar, when to catch animals, how to cut them and prepare, and the steps for skin preparation.*
- Please refer to the response provided under #5.
7. *Need to develop more cultural programs to take plan on the land.*
- Please refer to the response provided under #5.
8. *Young men in the region need programs developed for them to learn to hunt, and go out on the land.*
- DFS provides \$50,000 in grants through the Men and Boys Initiatives Grants Program, for small community projects that target the needs of boys and young men. The program provides grants to individuals, community non-profit organizations and municipal corporations that direct their efforts to providing ongoing services for men and boys or develop new initiatives to target the specific needs of boys and young men.
9. *Connect with Qullit Status of Women, work closely with the women in Kitikmeot.*

- The Department of Family Services currently provides \$250,000 annually to the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council whose mandate is to advance the goal of equal participation of women in society and promote changes in social, legal and economic structures to that end.

*10. Work with the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry.*

*Communities would like to see more community based activities, and begin to host candlelight vigils with frontline support staff in the communities.*

- The Departments of Family Services and Justice are co-leads on this item.
- There is an interdepartmental working group with officials from Family Services, Justice and EIA to coordinate work and liaise with other stakeholders.
- A broader stakeholders group has been formed including other relevant Departments, RCMP, Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, to effectively plan for Nunavut's response to the inquiry.

The Government of Nunavut continues to support survivors of family violence, as well as the families of missing and murdered Inuit women and girls in Nunavut.

**Resolution #23/17: Youth**

- Culture and Heritage funds initiatives that contribute to the promotion and preservation of Nunavut's culture, heritage and language.
- For example, the Elder and Youth Facilities contribution program is available for the development and/or renovations of Elders and Youth facilities or relevant associated equipment. You can get more information on the application process via our website ([HTTP://www.gov.nu.ca/CH](http://www.gov.nu.ca/CH)) or via our toll free line at : 1-866-934-2035.
- There is also grant and contribution funding available from our Culture and Heritage programs and Youth Initiatives programs that offer funding for projects that foster increasing cultural use and retention.
- There is a contribution program available from our Inuit Language Promotion and Protection Contribution program for language recovery and Inuinnaqtun revitalization project .
- Community-based non-profit Youth and Elders Committees, including municipal corporations acting on their behalf, can apply to our Youth and Elders Committees grant program for support.

- In the program area, Culture and Heritage offers a survival skills workshop and On-The-Land program for various communities. The Elders and Youth Division plans to make this an ongoing initiative. Nunavummiut have concerns that they are losing their Elders who have extensive traditional knowledge on our history, culture, traditional values and language.

The Government of Nunavut appreciates our working relationship with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association and looks forward to our continued work together to benefit the people of the Kitikmeot.