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By Email and by Mail

131-4(3) Tabled Document

Way yollo

May 6, 2016

Mr. Paul Okalik, MLA (Iqaluit-Sinaa), Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, Box 1200, Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Okalik,

Thank you for your letter of March 14, 2016, which NTI received on March 31, 2016, concerning the retail sale of some forms of alcohol in Iqaluit and its relationship to Inuit rights to participate in the development of social and cultural policies set out in Article 32 of the Nunavut Agreement.

NTI agrees with your view that "... the government has a clear obligation under Article 32 ... to hold formal and meaningful consultations with Inuit prior to taking any decision that will have a significant impact on our society".

It is NTI's position that neither the federal government nor the territorial government, on behalf of the Crown, has adequately and consistently met its Article 32 obligations to Inuit in the development of social and cultural policies since the coming into force of the Nunavut Agreement in 1993. With the settlement of the lawsuit on May 4, 2015, NTI communicated its implementation priorities for the balance of the current implementation period to both Premier Taptuna and then DIAND Minister Valcourt. Article 32 was one of the four top priorities identified by NTI in correspondence from our President. In a May 13, 2015, letter, President Towtongie wrote:

"Article 32: Inuit Participation in Social and Cultural Policy

The implementation of this Article has, in the past, been overshadowed by the pressing implementation priorities of other parts of the Nunavut Agreement, such as Articles 23 and 24. Given the central and inescapable importance of social and cultural issues in the life of Nunavut, appropriate focus must now be applied."

NTI has followed up on this letter with representations concerning Article 32 at meetings of the Nunavut Implementation Panel and in other communications. Through further internal work and analysis, including collaboration with Regional Inuit Associations in Nunavut, NTI hopes to be in a position to propose to the Government of Nunavut, in the near future, a practical framework of understandings to govern bilateral cooperation in the application of Article 32 to social and cultural policy development. In the follow-up to that proposal, NTI would be most happy to be in close and ongoing contact with you and other members of the Legislative Assembly.

In your March 14th letter you indicated that you would intend to table both your letter and our response in the Legislative Assembly. NTI is entirely comfortable with your doing so.

Yours sincerely,

James Eetoolook, Acting President, NTI