



Tabling of Documents

Tony Akoak, MLA

Gjoa Haven

February 19, 2019

Correspondence Concerning the Gjoa Haven Airport

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as you know, the community of Gjoa Haven has been working hard to identify infrastructure improvements that will help to support economic development in such sectors as tourism, which is why I am taking this opportunity to table a collection of recent correspondence concerning the Gjoa Haven Airport.

Mr. Speaker, I will have detailed questions for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation on this issue during our current winter sitting, and I encourage all Members to review these documents with care.

January 31, 2019

Dear Minister Akeeagok:

In partnership with such entities as the Franklin Interim Advisory Committee, the Municipality of Gjoa Haven has been working hard to identify strategies and action plans to ensure that our community and residents benefit in a substantive and sustainable manner from the legacy of this historic discovery. As you will recall, I have raised this issue on a number of occasions, including the June 1, 2018, sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

As you will note from the attached proposal that has been prepared by the Municipality of Gjoa Haven, the need for adequate transportation infrastructure to support the community's growing tourism sector is extremely important, and I would very much welcome a positive response from the federal government to the Municipality's proposal. As you will appreciate, I would also strongly support efforts on the part of your department to work with such federal partners as Transport Canada to identify funding under such programs as the Airports Capital Assistance Program (ACAP) with which to undertake the important upgrades to the Gjoa Haven Airport that have been identified by the Municipality.

I look forward to your reply, which I would also request include a detailed description of the role of your department's Tourism and Cultural Industries Division in supporting the work of the Franklin Interim Advisory Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Akoak, MLA
Gjoa Haven

**c.c. Minister responsible for Parks Canada
Senator for Nunavut
Member of Parliament for Nunavut
Mayor and Council, Municipality of Gjoa Haven
Chairperson, Franklin Interim Advisory Committee**



HAMLET OF GJOA HAVEN

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Dated: January 14, 2019

To: Thuc Nguyen Asset Manager for Parks Canada

Cc: MLA Gjoa Haven, Tony Akoak

From: Mayor of Hamlet of Gjoa Haven, Joanni Sallerina

Dear Sir,

Re: Expansion to the Gjoa Haven Airport Runway

Good day to all. I would like to start off by sincerely hope that the 2019 year is a prosperous one for you and your colleges. I'm writing today seeking support for our goal of improving one of the most important pieces of infrastructure in our community, the Gjoa Haven Airport.

Every year the Hamlet of Gjoa Haven and Council review the infrastructure needs of our community to see if what we have is adequate. We also take this time to determine what pieces of infrastructure we will possibly need in the future as relevant Infrastructure is a significant part of our sustainability plan for our community.

We have recently represented the community of Gjoa Haven during the grand opening of the Franklin Expedition Exhibition that is being shown to the public in Mystic, USA. We couldn't help but be impressed by the large amount of international interest shown in the story of the Franklin Ships. With that, we anticipate a large growth in tourism to our community in years to come and are trying our best to plan for such an opportunity by developing the necessary infrastructure need to service this tourism demand.

We would like to recognize, and are extremely excited about, the contribution Parks Canada plans to make to our Gjoa Haven Culture Center of \$6 million in support of your Franklin Expedition Initiative. This historic find is definitely, a local, regional, and national treasure.

As an isolated northern community in Nunavut, tourists have limited access to Gjoa Haven. They can only visit here by two forms of transportation, air or water. This is presently an issue as there is only a few months in the year visitors can come to Gjoa by water and our airport does not have the ability to service any commercial jets. An example of this restrictive transportation issue was this past summer when we had 7 cruise ships scheduled to visit. This represented a 43% increase in cruise ship visit from the previous year. Some of these cruise ships were twice the size of the previous year's so the percentage increase in actual tourist would have been even higher. None of the ships were able to visit Gjoa Haven due to an ice blockage in the North West Passage region. As you can see Gjoa Haven's tourism industry can be extremely affected by unpredictable weather patterns. This limits our ability to take full advantage of this great tourism opportunity. Council feels that if we had an airport that could service commercial jet airplanes we would be able to expand the economic benefit from our tourism sector by possibly 6-fold.

As a Hamlet we have been in a deficit situation for the past few years, but our present management team is extremely proud of the fact that we have made significant strides in working our way out of this situation. As such we are reaching out to Parks Canada to help us with such an improvement in infrastructure. This improvement would also help to solidify the effectiveness of Parks Canada's present investment in our community because if you build it they will come, but only if they can get here.

With that we are asking Parks Canada to review the Franklin Expedition File with the intent of revising your involvement in our community by including funding for improvements to the Gjoa Haven Airport Runway. The scope of these improvements will be focused on the funding required to extend and widen our airport runway so that commercial jet airplanes can be serviced here. Such an infrastructure improvement will give us the ability to increase the number of tourist that can come to our community.

We are asking for your help so we can provide the world with the opportunity to visit the Franklin Expedition site and experience the great Inuit culture that exists in our community.

We would like to thank you for your time and appreciate the attention given to this matter and look forward to your response to our request.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joanni Sallerina', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Joanni Sallerina
Mayor of Gjoa Haven, Nunavut



February 12, 2019

Joanni Sallerina
Mayor of Gjoa Haven
Hamlet of Gjoa Haven
P. O. Box 200
Gjoa Haven, Nunavut X0B 1J0
via E-mail: mayor@qiniq.com

Re: Expansion to the Gjoa Haven Airport Runway

Dear Mayor Sallerina,

Thank you for your letter addressed to Thuc Nguyen, Asset Manager, and for your kind wishes. On behalf of Parks Canada, I too would like to wish you a happy new year. As Acting Field Unit Superintendent for the Nunavut Field Unit, I have heard many good things about the collaboration between the Hamlet of Gjoa Haven and Parks Canada in recent years. The Parks Canada team is looking forward to working together even more closely this coming year with the people of Gjoa Haven on the Wrecks of HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror* National Historic Site.

In regards to the runway extension, as the airport and runway are owned by the Government of Nunavut, this is an asset that Parks Canada does not have jurisdiction over. Improvements to the airstrip should be addressed by its owners and Transport Canada. There are at least two programs that the airstrip owners could seek out to address the airstrip expansion.

The first fund is the Airports Capital Assistance Program (ACAP), more information can be found at the following website: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/en/services/aviation/operating-airports-aerodromes/apply-acap-funding.html>.

The other fund available is the National Trade Corridor Fund, more information can be found at the following website: <https://www.tc.gc.ca/en/services/infrastructure/apply-ntcf-continuous-call.html>.

If support letters are required during an application process, Parks Canada will be happy to provide one as needed.

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