

May 22, 2019

Tabled Document
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Hon. Joe Savikataaq, MLA
Premier of Nunavut
Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs
Chairperson of the Executive Council
Office of the Premier

RE: 2019-2020 Letter of Expectation for the Executive Council of Nunavut

Dear Premier Savikataaq:

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Chairperson of the Regular Members' Caucus (RMC) to provide the following Letter of Expectation for the Executive Council (Cabinet).

This letter outlines specific performance expectations that the RMC has for Cabinet during the current 2019-2020 fiscal year. It also serves to emphasize the principle that the Executive must be accountable and responsive to Members as we work collectively to achieve the shared objectives outlined in *Turaaqtavut*. Members would like to remind Cabinet of the responsibility entrusted to Ministers by the Legislative Assembly, and of their accountability to the Legislative Assembly, and, ultimately, to the Nunavut public.

In turn, Regular Members are responsible for effectively holding the government accountable to the people of Nunavut through our scrutiny of the government's budgets, business plans, bills and policies.

As a Caucus, Members have identified a number of ongoing performance issues with the Executive Council. As Premier, you have a central role in addressing these issues for the benefit of our government and the territory at large. This letter is intended to encourage corrective action by clearly defining the expectations being placed on the Executive Council. That being said, it is important to emphasize that this letter is not targeted at any one particular Minister.

I am confident that you will fully agree that Ministers are expected to respect Parliamentary conventions and to demonstrate a commitment to accountability. The right of non-Cabinet Members to request and receive information from the Executive is a fundamental principle of Parliamentary government. Our non-partisan, consensus approach to government further emphasizes the importance of Cabinet embracing its duty to be open and transparent with Members.

I must advise you that there is a growing dissatisfaction on the part of my Caucus colleagues with the approach taken by a number of Ministers. Rather than responding in a clear, candid and comprehensive manner to Members' questions posed during sittings of the House and meetings of standing committees, a number of Ministers do the opposite.

This is unacceptable, and it is important to note that although this Assembly has made a decision not to undertake a formal mid-term review of the Executive Council, Caucus is approaching the issue of Ministerial performance on an ongoing basis, as was demonstrated very clearly last year. Consequences for future non-performance may include motions of censure and/or motions of non-confidence for the particular Minister(s).

We ask that you, in your capacity as Premier, convey the following specific expectations to your Cabinet colleagues:

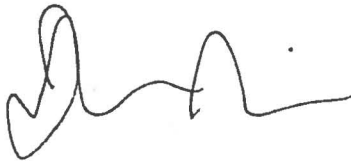
1. *All members of the Executive Council are expected to* be fully briefed on all major issues, policies, initiatives, expenditures and statutes under their Ministerial portfolios;
2. *All members of the Executive Council are expected to* provide substantive answers to Members' questions during sittings of the House and meetings of standing committees;
3. *All members of the Executive Council are expected to* provide answers to Members' questions that are as clear and concise as possible, and that are not needlessly drawn out or repetitive, in a manner consistent with the principles of Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit;
4. *All members of the Executive Council are expected to* provide follow-up responses in a timely manner to Members on occasions where they cannot immediately provide the requested information, and to use official formats for written responses and/or returns to oral questions for other responses;

5. *All members of the Executive Council are expected to* give full consideration to the recommendations made by standing committees and individual Members of the Legislative Assembly concerning departmental and Crown agency budgets and business plans;
6. *All members of the Executive Council are expected to* table, in a timely manner, documents requested by Members; and
7. *All members of the Executive Council are expected to* maintain open and efficient lines of communication with standing committees and individual Members of the Legislative Assembly by ensuring that all correspondence sent to any Regular Member adheres to guidance provided by the Office of the Legislative Assembly in respect to copying requirements and electronic and paper formats.

As a courtesy, I wish to advise you that I will be tabling a copy of this correspondence when the House reconvenes for its spring sitting.

On behalf of my colleagues, I wish to conclude by stating that I am very confident that sincere efforts to address the issues above will strengthen our government and be welcomed by our constituents whom we represent.

Matna,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Main', with a stylized, cursive script.

John Main, MLA
Chair, Regular Members' Caucus

c.c. All Regular MLAs
Office of the Speaker