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Building Nunavut Together  
Nunavut liuqatigiingniq  
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

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Office of Premier Joe Savikataaq  
Hivuliqtip Joe Savikataaq Havakvingani  
Bureau du Premier ministre Joe Savikataaq

John Main, MLA  
Chair, Regular Members Caucus  
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut  
P.O. Box 1200  
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

May 29, 2019

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

Dear Mr. Main,

This letter is in response to the May 22, 2019 letter, that was hand delivered to me on May 24, 2019. As Premier, I would like to re-affirm the point that all members of the Executive Council take very seriously to principle of accountability and responsiveness to Members of the Legislative Assembly and of course to the Nunavut Public. I am confirming that I have shared your correspondence with my colleagues in person.

We collectively respect that Regular Members are tasked with the responsibility of holding our government to account via scrutiny of our budgets, business plans, bills and policies. These are crucial exercises that ensure accountability and transparency in achieving the goals set out in our mandate, *Turaaqtavut*, that we welcome engagement on.

In your letter, you note that Members have “identified a number of ongoing performance issues with the Executive Council.” You also note my professional responsibility as Premier, in addressing such issues. In order for me to carry out my professional duties, I must first be notified of specific concerns pertaining to the performance of my colleagues on the Executive Council. Until such time that specific issues are brought to my attention, I am unable to carry out my responsibility in ensuring corrective measures are instituted.

I would like to take this opportunity to reinforce that we have an open door policy and always welcome members to engage with myself and my colleagues in Cabinet to discuss any and all issues. We will continue to extend this gesture to our colleagues of the Regular Members Caucus. This is important, as we need to be able to take all opportunities, whether it is in person, in email correspondence or by phone to stay

connected with all members on all of the important issues that we are tasked with addressing.

With respect to the specific expectations that you are listed in your letter I would like to express the following:

1. **All member of the Executive Council are** fully briefed on all major issues, policies, initiatives, expenditures and statutes pertaining to the respective portfolios. Our administration and staff work very hard to ensure that this happens on a regular basis.
2. **And 3 in your correspondence.** These two bullets appear to contradict each other. There are times where substantive answers are certainly warranted, and there are other times in which a more concise answer is necessary. Dependant on the matter at hand, Ministers make determinations on how to respond.
3. Please note response in #2.
4. **All member of the Executive Council** work hard with their Ministries to ensure that follow-up responses are provided in a timely manner. We have used and will continue to use official formats in which to provide the response. I would note that at times, there are issues/questions that are complex in nature and require more time to ensure that the appropriate response, with pertinent information is provided to Members.
5. **All members of the Executive Council** do 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. These considerations are made carefully, and when necessary, explanations are provided to Members on areas of possible contention.
6. **All members of the Executive Council** do make all efforts to table, in a timely manner, documents requested by members. Further to this, when there is a known delay in a Minister's ability to table documents, appropriate notices are provided.
7. **All members of the Executive Council** do maintain open and efficient lines of communication with standing committees and individual Members of the Legislative Assembly. Instructions from the Office of the Legislative Assembly are disseminated on a regular basis. Further to this, my office has invited the Clerk of the Assembly to engage with Ministerial Staff to ensure there is clarity on the way in which information from Ministers to Members should be disseminated. We commit to ensure ongoing openness on this front.

I appreciate your notice of your intent to table your letter. I too, will be prepared to table my response in the House.

I would like to reiterate the importance of engaging with members of the Executive Council on a regular basis as issues arise, and that we remain committed to ensuring that these issues are addressed appropriately. But as I noted earlier, I need to be informed of specific instances of "performance issues" of members of the Executive Council. I am fully prepared to ensure that corrective action is taken, when warranted.

I welcome any opportunity provided to discuss this further with you and your colleagues on the Regular Members Caucus.

Sincerely,



Joe Savikataaq, Premier  
Government of Nunavut

CC: Members of the Legislative Assembly  
Office of the Speaker