



Tabled Document

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The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, M.D., P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Bennett:

I am writing to you as the Member of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut to thank you for your letter to me of April 10, 2019, which was in reply to my correspondence to you of October 3, 2018, regarding the issue of the Hall Beach graves relocation that occurred during the 1960s. I am pleased to advise you that I had the opportunity to formally table our exchange of correspondence in the Legislative Assembly on the occasion of its sitting of June 3, 2019.

In your reply to me, you wrote that:

"We recognize that this event has been documented in the Qikiqtani Truth Commission's community profiles. As a member of the Qikiqtani Truth Commission's Saimaqatigiingniq Working Group, we will be working together with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and other stakeholders to continue finding ways to support and implement the Qikiqtani Truth Commission's recommendations while advancing reconciliation ... moving forward, Government of Canada officials will be in contact to further discuss this matter."

I very much welcome this commitment, and I very much welcome the formal apology to Qikiqtani Inuit that you delivered on behalf of the Government of Canada on August 14, 2019, concerning the government's actions during the time period in which the Hall Beach incident occurred. I note that the government's announcement of August 14, 2019, concerning the official apology, indicated that:

"To move forward, Minister Bennett announced that Canada and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association have established a Memorandum of Understanding to work in partnership to build a long-term and sustainable response to the Qikiqtani Truth Commission's findings. This includes identified funding to implement programming for Qikiqtani Inuit to promote Inuit culture, healing and well-being for current and future generations."

I strongly encourage both the Government of Canada and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association to ensure that addressing the legacy of the Hall Beach incident is part of the important work that both parties have committed to undertaking.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,



Joelle Kaerner, MLA  
Amittuq

c.c. President, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Premier of Nunavut  
Mayor and Council of Hall Beach  
Senator for Nunavut  
Member of Parliament for Nunavut