

Nunavut Maligaliurvia
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

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The Honourable Paul Quassa, MLA
Minister of Education
Office of the Minister
Legislative Assembly Precinct
Iqaluit, NU
X0A 0H0

Dear Minister Quassa:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the status of your department's efforts to safeguard the Sam Pudlat School in the community of Cape Dorset. I appreciate your keeping me informed of this situation.

I share your concern at the number of incidents of arson and attempted arson that have recently occurred in the community. In reviewing the 2013, 2014 and 2015 annual reports of the Office of the Fire Marshal, I note that there were a total of eleven fires over the course of three years. Your reference to there being "upwards of seven arson attempts ... within the past year [alone]" is deeply disturbing. I would like to take this opportunity to request that the Office of the Fire Marshall work closely with the community's RCMP detachment and other relevant authorities to ensure that the municipal council and the District Education Authority receive regular updates on the status of such incidents.

I applaud and thank you and your department for your efforts to upgrade security at the Sam Pudlat School, and I fully support the provision of on-site security personnel during weekends and after school hours on an ongoing basis.

I also applaud and thank you and your department for your efforts to work with other entities to “reduce the risk of arson and to ensure that ... facilities [in the community] are protected.” As you will recall, the issue of interagency co-operation and action has been one of the themes that I have emphasized in the Legislative Assembly. I strongly support the engagement of a facilitator to work with appropriate stakeholders to undertake a community summit meeting to develop an action plan for Cape Dorset. I look forward to working closely with you on this initiative.

As you will recall, the government's *Public Engagement Report for the Crime Prevention Strategy* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on May 26, 2015. In reviewing this document, I note reference to such ideas as support for community watch programs and other specific crime prevention initiatives. As you will be aware, the government's current business plan indicates that one of the Department of Justice's priorities is to "roll out a *Crime Prevention Strategy* for Nunavut and continue to deliver crime prevention programs in all regions of Nunavut." It also indicates that the Community Justice Division of the department "will be working with partners and stakeholders to establish a Crime Prevention Working Group. The Group will lead the implementation of the *Crime Prevention Strategy* and provide support to communities **to meet their crime prevention and wellness priorities**." I anticipate that the status of this initiative will be an important component of the community summit meeting that we will be working towards.

I also wish to take this opportunity to thank and applaud the Department of Justice for its efforts to recruit members of the Cape Dorset *Inirtirjiit* Justice Committee and the Cape Dorset Youth Justice Committee. The participation of committee members will be essential to the success of efforts in the community.

Although the involvement of government departments and other entities is critical to the success of efforts to reduce crime and enhance community wellness, the importance of parental and personal responsibility must also be emphasized at every opportunity. As you will recall from the Legislative Assembly's sitting of October 21, 2015, I noted that, "As part of the recovery process, parents need to continue to work together in partnership with local agencies to ensure that taking care and responsibility for our children is an ongoing priority." In addition to supporting healthy parenting initiatives, we must also, as elected leaders, be prepared to support the work of front-line staff in the fulfillment of their responsibilities, including work in the area of child protection.

Thank you again for your commitment to working with the community.

Yours sincerely,



David Joanasie, MLA
South Baffin

c.c. Minister of Community and Government Services
Minister of Family Services
Minister of Justice
Mayor of Cape Dorset
Cape Dorset District Education Authority
Cape Dorset *Inirtirjiit* Justice Committee
Cape Dorset Youth Justice Committee
Commanding Officer, Royal Canadian Mounted Police 'V' Division