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*OK 22/20*

The Honourable Emiliano Qirngnuq  
MLA for Netsilik  
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Email: [emilianoqirngnuq@netsilikmla.ca](mailto:emilianoqirngnuq@netsilikmla.ca)

October 14, 2020

Dear Emiliano:

At its regular Council meeting held on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, Council passed a motion directing me to send you a letter expressing our concern and dismay about the lack of public housing being built in Taloyoak.

There are @ 107 people waiting for housing to be made available in our community with a population of @ 1100 (Stats Canada 2016). There are many vacant units in Taloyoak waiting for repairs so they can be occupied again. And yet no repairs seem to be happening and vacant units remain vacant, year after year, while homeless people live in shacks on the beach or non-winterized summer cabins out at the lake miles away from the community. When we have already experienced a homeless citizen freezing to death in the winter here, it is a further clue how much public housing policy has failed the citizens of Taloyoak. As our MLA, what are you doing to assist Taloyoak in this regard?

There were no housing units built in Taloyoak in 2019/20 and no units built here in 2020/21 either. Further, there are no units planned to be built in 2021/22. Why is it that other communities are receiving new housing units and our community is being entirely bypassed, year after year? This is completely unacceptable to us and has to change.

The chronic unemployment, depressed wages, and meager social assistance that our people cope with on a daily basis guarantee there is not enough rental revenue available to interest the private sector in building housing units locally. And it is apparent that NHC is incapable of meeting our needs through public housing. Further, we have pursued funding in an attempt to open a homeless shelter, and yet have been unsuccessful in obtaining funds for that as well. When both the public and private sectors fail us, what are we to do? We are a non-taxed based community with no way of

raising revenue to address these urgent needs; we are entirely dependent upon territorial and federal funding to operate our existing programs and services.

My Council and I would appreciate hearing from you regarding this urgent matter.

Thank you, Emiliano.

Yours truly,



John Charles Pizzo Lyall  
Mayor

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