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NUTAQQANUT INULRAMIRNULLU
UGAQTIKHAANIK

REPRÉSENTANT DE
L'ENFANCE ET DE LA JEUNESSE

REPRESENTATIVE FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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December 9, 2021

PJ Akeeagok
Office of the Premier
PO Box 2410
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Dear Premier Akeeagok,

Congratulations on your election to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut and to the role of Premier.

Further to my letter, provided in an information package to all Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) during the Leadership Forum, I would like to draw your attention to another focus of the Representative for Children and Youth's Office's (RCYO) work, which is to amplify the voices (opinions and concerns) of young Nunavummiut to decision makers. Decision makers, like you, your Cabinet, and all MLAs have a responsibility to consider the voices of young people when making decisions that will affect their lives.¹

The RCYO was invigorated when you highlighted the importance of young Nunavummiut during the Leadership Forum. We are hopeful that the mandate of the next government will present a strong and direct commitment to Nunavut's children and youth. As such, I would like to highlight some of the greatest issues that young Nunavummiut face today, in relation to government services and based on our advocacy work. These issues include:

1. A proactive and collaborative approach to address the child abuse crisis² that exists in the territory;
2. Ensuring adequate, child- and youth-focused mental health supports are accessible to all young Nunavummiut. This includes a full implementation of the RCYO recommendations in *Our Minds Matter: A Youth-Informed Review of Mental Health Services for Young Nunavummiut*;³

¹ As per the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, Article 4. Available at <https://rcynu.ca/sites/rcynu.ca/files/English%20CRC%20Poster.pdf>

² As I stated in the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts Hearings on the 2019-2020 Annual Report of the Representative for Children and Youth. Available at <https://rcynu.ca/whats-new/news/yes-child-sexual-abuse-crisis-nunavut>

³ Representative for Children and Youth's Office (2019). *Our Minds Matter: A Youth-Informed Review of Mental Health Services for Young Nunavummiut*. Iqaluit, NU: Representative for Children and Youth's Office. Available at https://rcynu.ca/sites/rcynu.ca/files/RCYO_MHReview_EN.pdf

3. Better child and youth program and service coordination between Government of Nunavut service providers and departments; and
4. Increased accountability and oversight by department to ensure ethical, equitable, and consistent services, especially when it comes to child protection matters.

I would be happy to provide you with additional information about any of these issues.

In fulfilling your responsibility to Nunavut's children and youth, I trust you and all of your fellow decision makers will think of the RCYO as your ally, as we are all working towards the same goal.

I welcome the opportunity to meeting with you in person to discuss these and other issues related to government services that continue to affect the lives of Nunavut's young people and their families. Please have your office contact me to schedule a meeting at your earliest convenience.

Please note: This correspondence is in the process of being translated into Inuktitut and will be provided to you as soon as it is completed.

Sincerely,



Jane Bates
Representative for Children and Youth

CC: James Arreak, Ministerial Political Advisor