



July 14, 2023

The Honourable David Akeeagok, MLA
Minister of Justice
Office of the Minister
Legislative Assembly Precinct
Iqaluit, NU
X0A 0H0

Dear Minister Akeeagok:

As the Member of the Legislative Assembly representing the constituency of Iqaluit-Sinaa, I am deeply committed to supporting actions to address the epidemic of domestic and intimate partner violence in Nunavut.

As you will recall, I raised the issue of establishing a Domestic Violence Death Review Committee for Nunavut on a number of occasions during the Legislative Assembly's recent winter sitting. Information published by the Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative indicates that:

“Domestic Violence Death Review Committees are multi-disciplinary advisory committees of experts that review domestic violence related deaths with the underlying objectives of preventing them in the future. The first Canadian Domestic Violence Death Review Committee was established in 2003 in Ontario in response to recommendations made from two major inquests ... several provinces and territories in Canada have established Domestic Violence Death Review Committees, fatality reviews and/or inquests into deaths related to domestic violence. Other provinces and territories have taken steps to assess need for and/or are the in process of establishing Domestic Violence Death Review Committees.”

I strongly support the establishment of such a body for our territory. As I noted during the Legislative Assembly's sitting of March 8, 2023, such an action would serve to accomplish a number of objectives, including the granting of standing to impacted family members during relevant proceedings.

As you will recall, you subsequently informed the Legislative Assembly at its sitting of March 10, 2023, that the Office of the Chief Coroner of Nunavut “has already agreed to investigate [the] proposal of death review committees in instances of family violence and suicide. We do not have timelines ... or much more details, but I can commit that [the] suggestion is going to be given careful consideration by our Chief Coroner.”

I appreciated your openness to this initiative and I ask that your reply to my correspondence provide a detailed update on the status of its implementation.

During the Legislative Assembly's recent winter sitting, your predecessor informed the House that the Office of the Chief Coroner of Nunavut "participated in a research program with the Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations. The goal was to identify risk factors associated with intimate partner homicides and suicides in Nunavut to gather evidence-based information on effective risk assessment, risk management and safety planning strategies in order to prevent lethal domestic violence. The project finished in August 2021 and provided a national statistical representation of domestic violence deaths in Canada. The Coroner's Office entered into an agreement with the Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations with a multi-disciplinary team that worked with coroners and medical examiners from all jurisdictions in Canada to collect data about domestic violence homicide."

I ask that your reply to my correspondence include a copy of the findings and recommendations from this important work, as well as a copy of the agreement that was referenced in the House.

I also ask that you commit to resuming the practice of making the annual reports of the Office of the Chief Coroner of Nunavut public through tabling in the Legislative Assembly. As you will appreciate, the important information that is contained in these reports is of significant value to all Members of the Legislative Assembly.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,



Janet Brewster, MLA
Iqaluit-Sinaa

c.c. Iqaluit MLAs



ᐅᑎᑎᑭᐅ ᐅᑎᑎᑭᐅ ᐅᑎᑎᑭᐅ ᐅᑎᑎᑭᐅ
 Building Nunavut Together
 Nunavut iluqatigiingniq
 Bâtir la Nunavut ensemble

ᑦᓂᑦ ᐅᑎᑎᑭᐅ ᐅᓂᑦ
 Minister of Justice
 Ministaat Maligaliqiyikkutnut
 Ministre de l'Justice

July 25, 2023

Janet Brewster
 MLA Iqaluit-Sinaa
 Legislative Assembly Precinct
 Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Dear Ms. Brewster

RE: Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence Review Committee

Thank you for your letter dated July 14, 2023, about the possibility of a Domestic Violence Review Committee for Nunavut and your request for additional information.

As Minister of Justice, I am committed to exploring initiatives and practical steps to address domestic and intimate partner violence, a significant and ongoing public health and safety concern in our territory.

I want to confirm that the Department of Justice and the Office of the Chief Coroner continue to explore the possibility of establishing a committee to review deaths involving domestic and intimate partner violence in Nunavut. Additionally, the department is actively reviewing the work, composition, structure, and scope of Domestic Violence Death Review Committees in other provinces and territories to aid in our assessment.

I have enclosed a copy of the report *One is Too Many: 10 Years of Domestic Homicides in Canada*, which provides the findings of the Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations (CDHPIVP) as prepared by the researchers, which is publicly available and can be found online at: https://www.cdhpi.ca/sites/cdhpi.ca/files/cdhpi-report-final_0.pdf. I have also enclosed a copy of the Research Agreement between the Government of Nunavut and the researchers entered into in accordance with the ATIPP Act.

As you are aware the *Coroner's Act* does not require the production and tabling of an annual report from the Office of the Chief Coroner; however, I have shared with the Chief Coroner the strong desire from the Assembly to see this information. The impact of this request on the office's capacity and operational requirements is being considered.

Sincerely,

Hon. David Akeegok
 Minister of Justice

cc Stephen Mansell, Deputy Minister of Justice
 Iqaluit MLAs

Encls.