



July 27, 2023

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

The Honourable Lorne Kusugak, MLA  
Minister of Finance  
Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission  
Office of the Minister  
Legislative Assembly Precinct  
Iqaluit, NU  
X0A 0H0

Dear Ministers Akeeagok and Kusugak:

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Tununiq.

As you are aware, the community of Pond Inlet recently suffered a number of violent incidents involving the use of alcohol. I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the community's first responders and to express my concern at the impact that substance abuse is having on public safety in the community.

It is my understanding that the current 20-year *Canada-Nunavut Territorial Policing Service Agreement*, which was signed in 2012, provides for a contract management committee that consists of federal and territorial representatives and which has the mandate of assessing law enforcement resource requirements in the jurisdiction. I wish to take this opportunity to express my strong support for the Government of Nunavut to advocate for an immediate increase in the size of the community's Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment and the number of officers who are permanently stationed in the community.

The *Pond Inlet Liquor Restriction Regulations* made under the authority of the territorial *Liquor Act* provide for the establishment of a committee "... whose functions shall include the education and counselling of persons in the use of alcohol for the prevention of alcohol abuse and whatever other functions may be assigned to it by these regulations."

I also wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the members of the committee and the important work that it performs, as well as expressing my strong support for increased training and resources to be provided to the committee in order to strengthen its capacity to support our territory's hard reduction goals.

I note that one of the Department of Finance's priorities for the current 2023-2024 fiscal year is to "engage in stakeholder and targeted community consultations informed by the internal review of the *Liquor Act* and begin the legislative amendment processes." I also wish to take this opportunity to encourage the department to work with Pond Inlet's alcohol education committee to identify appropriate amendments to the *Pond Inlet Liquor Restriction Regulations* which would provide for prescribed limits to the amount of alcohol that can be imported into the community within defined periods of time.

I look forward to your replies.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Nutarak". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Nutarak, MLA  
Tununiq

c.c. Mayor of Pond Inlet  
Chair, Pond Inlet Alcohol Education Committee  
Commanding Officer, Royal Canadian Mounted Police 'V' Division







Karen Nutarak,  
MLA for Tununiq  
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

September 7, 2023

Dear MLA Nutarak,

Thank you for your letter of concern regarding recent incidents of violence involving alcohol in your constituency of Pond Inlet, and for encouraging the Department of Finance to work with the Pond Inlet Alcohol Education Committee on identifying potential amendments to the *Pond Inlet Liquor Restriction Regulations*.

As you mention in your letter, the *Liquor Act* and its regulations enable AECs to provide counselling and community programming on the responsible use of alcohol, and ways to reduce harm and dependency on alcohol. The Government of Nunavut wants AECs to succeed and fulfill their mandate under the *Liquor Act* as best as possible. This is why the Department of Finance makes itself available for AEC members who would like support in drafting educational materials or submitting applications for funding community-based alcohol education and harm reduction initiatives.

In 2022, the Nunavut Liquor and Cannabis Commission (NULC) launched the Ujjiqsuqta Community Initiatives Grants and Contributions Policy to provide communities with direct funding to support organizations that deliver messaging, activities, and programs that educate Nunavummiut about the responsible use of alcohol and cannabis, including options related to sobriety. Funding of up to \$25,000 per program per year is available to community-based organizations, including AECs. The Department of Finance has offered its support in drafting an application for this funding to any AEC that wishes to apply. To date, the Pond Inlet AEC has not requested funding under Ujjiqsuqta, but I have requested my officials reach out to the board chair to inquire if they have projects that would qualify for this funding.

In addition to providing support available whenever it is requested, AEC members take part in a conference every second year where they come together for peer support and training. With AEC elections occurring this fall, the Department of Finance is planning a training conference in 2024.

With respect to changing the *Pond Inlet Liquor Restriction Regulations*, Pond Inlet is currently a “restricted by AEC” liquor control system, which means residents must receive approval from the AEC in order to import liquor.



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 Building *Nunavut* Together  
 Nunavut iuqatigiingniq  
 Bâtir le *Nunavut* ensemble

Minister of Finance  
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 Ministre des Finances

AECs have the mandate to determine how much alcohol each person can order; they can currently limit this amount in any way they think is in the best interest of their community.

Neither the Department of Finance nor the Minister can change a community's liquor system by regulation – as per the “local option” provisions in the *Liquor Act*, a change to the local liquor control system must be requested by community members in the form of a petition with at least 20 eligible signatures. If accepted, a local plebiscite would be held and any change would require at least 60% support from eligible voters. If residents of Pond Inlet are interested in pursuing a “restricted by quantities” system that establishes a standard allowable limit for importing alcohol into the community, or an “unrestricted” system that does not require permits to import alcohol, our officials are available to assist you in drafting a petition with the appropriate wording. It should be noted, however, that AECs do not operate in communities with unrestricted or restricted by quantities liquor systems, as they are no longer responsible for issuing permission for liquor imports.

I have reached out to my colleague, Justice Minister David Akeeagok, to respond to your call for additional RCMP members to be stationed in Pond Inlet. Minister Akeeagok will respond separately to this part of your letter.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns. My officials are eager and willing to assist the Hamlet of Pond Inlet and Alcohol Education Committee in strengthening its liquor control and harm-reduction education efforts in your community.

Sincerely,

Hon. Lorne Kusugak  
 Minister of Finance

Cc: Hon. David Akeeagok, Minister of Justice  
 Stephen Mansell, Deputy Minister of Justice  
 Dan Young, Acting Deputy Minister of Finance  
 Mayor of Pond Inlet  
 Chair, Alcohol Education Committee









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