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October 30, 2023

Joanna Quassa MLA, Aggu PO Box 238 Igloolik, NU X0A 0L0

RE: 584-6(2) - Water Infrastructure

Dear MLA Quassa,

I would like to follow up on my commitment to get back you regarding the line of questioning raised on Thursday, October 26, 2023 regarding water infrastructure.

All Nunavut communities have water treatment plants that produce water to meet the current Department of Health Public Health Act - Public Water Supply Regulations.

Over the past five (5) years, the Departments of Health and Community and Government Services have reviewed different water parameters (e.g., turbidity) to determine if more stringent parameters need to be met to ensure safe drinking water is delivered to Nunavummiut. Not all current guidelines that are being followed (e.g., turbidity) are required under the current Public Water Supply Regulations but are used to ensure the safety of the drinking water that is delivered. The water treatment plants that have been constructed previously were designed to meet the regulations specified in the Public Health Act, and Public Water Supply Regulations, however, the majority of the water treatment plants may not be able to treat some of the parameters such as turbidity during certain periods of the year. Improved monitoring of municipal water systems, including daily turbidity testing, in the last five (5) years have also identified potential issues and made it possible to respond quickly in the interest of public safely (issuing precautionary Boil Water Advisories).

Currently across Nunavut, the water treatment plant in Resolute Bay meets the National Guideline for Drinking Water Quality and the new Whale Cove water treatment plant will meet national guidelines when commissioned.

Moving forward, while the Department of Health is working towards adopting new Regulations that will require all water treatment plants to meet the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality. My department is proactively ensuring that all new

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water treatment plants will be designed and constructed to meet the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality anticipating the new regulations.

As mentioned in the House, we will require an investment of approximately \$610 million and annual O&M investment of \$600,000 to \$1.2 million per water treatment plant to meet national standards in non-tax-based municipalities across Nunavut.

If you have any further questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Hon. David Joanasie

Minister, Community and Government Services

Cc: Kyle Seeley, Deputy Minister, Community and Government Services Jessica Young, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Stephen Hooey, Director, Community Infrastructure and Support Brad McFaul, Director, Policy & Consumer Affairs