February 19, 2024

Joseph Inagayuk Quqqiaq
MLA, Netsilik
PO Box 166
Taloyoak, NU
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RE: 681-6(2) - Community Morgues

Dear MLA Quqqiaq,

I am writing you to follow up on a question you raised in the House on November 9, 2023, concerning community morgues and engagement with the Office of the Chief Coroner.

The priority of community morgues has been raised by some communities through their annual Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP). As a municipal asset, it is important that a hamlet assess the utility and cost of a proposed asset and weigh the need against competing municipal priorities. The department's Community Infrastructure Division continues to work with municipalities to advance their priorities through short- and long-term community plan development.

Through my department's Community Development Division, the department continues to work closely with Municipalities as well as the Department of Health and Department of Family Services regarding the management of morgues and the respectful handling of the deceased.

The Community Development Division has given me assurances that they will engage with and further the discussion of the management and handling of the deceased directly with the Officer of the Chief Coroner.

This is an important topic that can impact a wide range of Nunavummiut and I would be happy to follow up with you and share any new information I come across as the discussions continue.

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Let me know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

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Hon. David Joanasie

Minister, Community and Government Services

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

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