

Tabled Documents 9-5(2)

May 24/18

Request for the Immediate Implementation of a Pangnirtung Urgency Intervention Plan, to

The Honourable Elisapee Sheutiapik,
Minister of Family Services and Minister Responsible for Homelessness

The Honourable Pat Angnakak,
Minister of Health and Minister Responsible for Suicide Prevention

The Honourable Jeannie Ehaloak,
Minister of Justice, and the

Honourable Lorne Kusugak,
Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Prepared by the Mayor and Council of the Hamlet of Pangnirtung

Pangnirtung, Nunavut

April 9, 2018

Request for Urgency Support Services for the People of Pangnirtung

The problem:

- Pangnirtung has a long history of frequent, critical and increasingly more life-threatening violent situations. Violent events in Pang have now become a daily occurrence.
- Please see statistics of the RCMP from 2015-2017 in Appendix A. Health Centre and Family Services and Department of Justice statistics have been requested through the Access to Privacy and Information Privacy Protection Act, as the Bureau of Statistics of the Government of Nunavut could not provide us with the specific information required to substantiate our request. However, the RCMP statistics in the Appendix A give a good indication to see an alarming increase in the need for services requested in the proposed *Pangnirtung Urgency Intervention Plan*
- Please see the statistics of the Ontario Centre for Poison Control. The extremely high number of calls to the Ontario Centre for Poison Control is alarming, reflecting a large number of suicide attempts in Pangnirtung during the months of February and March of 2018.
- Current services provided by the Departments of Health, Family Services, Justice and RCMP are over-capacity and ill-equipped to adequately address the urgent needs of an increasing number of Pangnirtung residents.
- Delays in RCMP emergency response times are too frequent.
- Children often witness family violence and have no alternative safe place to stay.
- Child protective services are placing children into foster homes that are often not equipped to deal with the complex needs of these traumatized children.
- Pangnirtung has no shelter for victims of domestic violence. In emergency situations, victims seek refuge at the homes of relatives, neighbourhoods or break into shacks where they hide from their assailants.
- Pangnirtung has no local on-call outreach victim support services and crisis support services offered by the mental health nurse, social workers and RCMP are fragmented and in most cases not effective.
- The lack of safe places, effective counseling, and immediate referrals to services outside of the community result in repeated and often escalating traumas and life-threatening events.
- The main underlying causes for urgency and emergency situations are related to alcohol and drug abuse, and unresolved anger issues. Although Pangnirtung has been declared

a 'dry community', in reality boot-legging is rampant and uncontrolled. Binge-drinking of alcohol is frequently implicated in episodes of violence. The use of illegal drugs which may contain crystal meth, cocaine or other substances, frequently cause severe paranoia and exacerbate aggression.

- If adequate urgency response services are not provided immediately, more and more people in Pangnirtung will be physically injured, emotionally traumatized and more lives will be lost due to violence or suicide.

Recommended Solutions:

1. The Hamlet of Pangnirtung is provided with adequate financial support to create and maintain and operate the emergency shelter. This shelter would provide safe housing and food for individuals of any age who are in vulnerable or life-threatening situations at home. Our estimate of required capacity would be provision of shelter for a maximum of 6 people at any given time. Average expected length of stay would be 14 days. Funds will be needed to renovate a vacant building owned by the Hamlet of Pangnirtung. Funds are also required to operate and maintain the emergency shelter. One option for the Government of Nunavut is to immediately release the Old Pangnirtung Health Centre to the Hamlet of Pangnirtung, which could be renovated to accommodate a shelter and support services for vulnerable community members.
2. Adequate financial support to staff of the emergency shelter.
3. Financial support to provide ongoing basic crisis counseling and victim support services in Pangnirtung for children, young adults, adults and elders, available 24/7. The counseling services would focus on addiction and mental health issues, including anger management to complement the currently provided services by the mental health nurses focusing on clients with psychiatric conditions.
4. More rapid access to advanced mental health and addiction services outside of the community, such as referral services for victims of violence and individuals that need detoxification and addiction treatment
5. An increase the capacity of the front-line workers of Social Services, Mental Health, By-Law Enforcement and local RCMP in Pangnirtung. Response times by the RCMP must be reduced immediately by having a local dispatcher rather than dispatch services from Iqaluit.
6. The screening at the airports in Ottawa and Iqaluit for alcohol and drugs of Pangnirtung-bound passengers and checked baggage.

Summary:

We, the Council of Pangnirtung, call upon the Government of Nunavut to recognize the critical needs of the People of Pangnirtung. Urgent financial support is now required to fund a shelter and additional services in Pangnirtung. This is a preventive measure, which will result in the reduction of social, health, law-enforcement and legal costs currently shouldered by the Government of Nunavut to deal with the consequences of substance abuse and family violence.

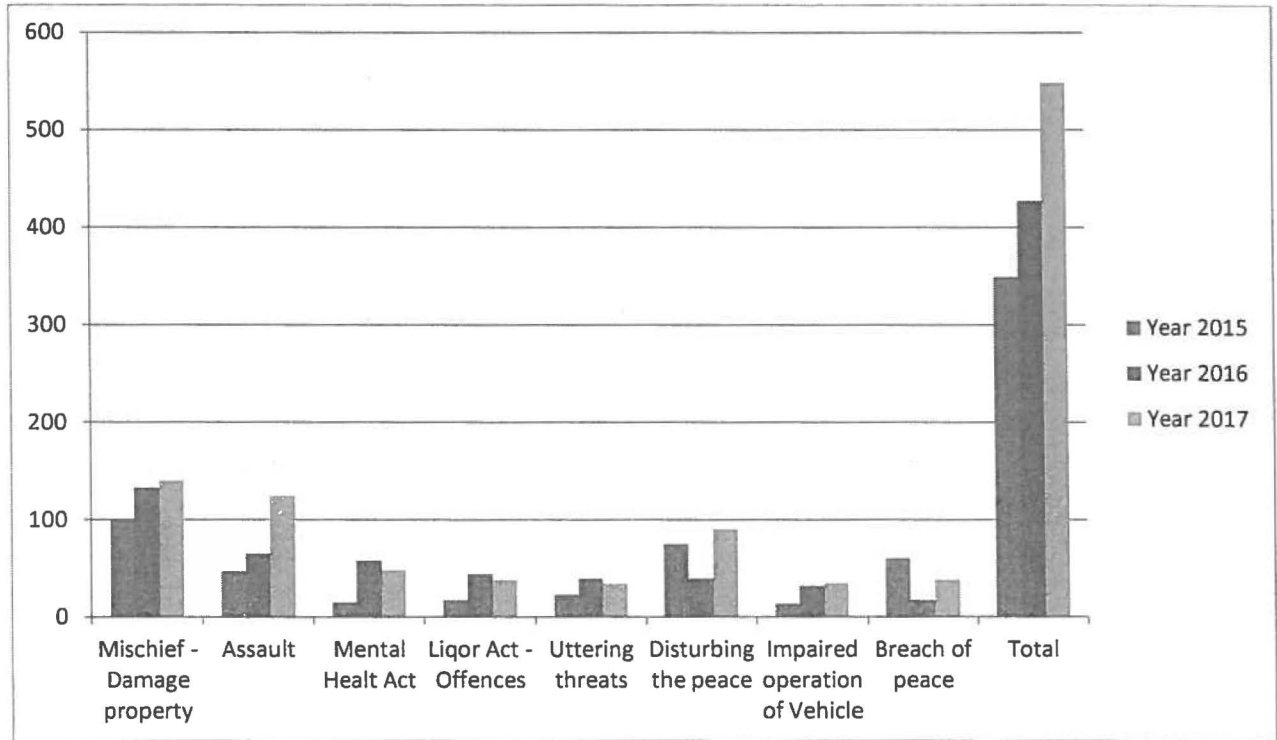
This document has been approved for the submission to the above Ministers by Motion Number

_____ dated at Pangnirtung on 9 April 2018

Stevie Komoartok, Mayor

APPENDIX A

Excerpt of RCMP Statistics, Pangnirtung Detachment Comparing the Years 2015, 2016, 2017



Please note:

- This is an excerpt of only some of the types of files handled by the RCMP during these 3 years
- There is a significant increase in almost all areas when comparing 2015 data to 2017 data.
- Of particular concern should be the increases in Assaults, Mental health Act interventions, Threats and Liquor Act Offences. These types of offenses are reflecting areas where there are conflicts between people, and avoidance behaviours (use of alcohol) – likely underlying causes increased stress due to overcrowded homes, inadequate mental health services, trauma and addiction. Most of these incidences will likely be reduced if Pangnirtung would have
 - AN EMERGENCY SHELTER
 - BETTER MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
 - READY ACCESS TO PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA AND ADDICTION TREATMENT

Monthly Report – Poison Exposures and Calls from Nunavut
February 2018

A. Number of Calls by Community

Community	Total	New Calls	Followup Calls
	165	41	124
Arctic Bay	0	0	0
Arviat	5	1	4
Baker Lake	9	5	4
Cambridge Bay	9	3	6
Cape Dorset	0	0	0
Chesterfield Inlet	0	0	0
Clyde River	3	1	2
Coral Harbour	4	1	3
Gjoa Haven	9	3	6
Grise Fiord	0	0	0
Hall Beach	1	1	0
Iglolik	1	1	0
Iqaluit	10	2	8
Kimmirut	0	0	0
Kugaaruk	2	1	1
Kugluktuk	0	0	0
Naujaat	1	1	0
Pangnirtung	81	10	71
Pond Inlet	13	3	10
Qikiqtarjuag	1	1	0
Rankin Inlet	0	0	0
Resolute Bay	0	0	0
Sanikiluaq	1	1	0
Taloyoak	0	0	0
Whale Cove	0	0	0

B. Types of Calls

Incoming Human Exposure Calls	41
Information and Other Calls	0

Monthly Report – Poison Exposures and Calls from Nunavut
March 2018

A. Number of Calls by Community

Community	Total	New Calls	Followup Calls
	184	55	129
Arctic Bay	0	0	0
Arviat	1	1	0
Baker Lake	17	4	13
Cambridge Bay	17	7	10
Cape Dorset	17	5	12
Chesterfield Inlet	0	0	0
Clyde River	1	1	0
Coral Harbour	0	0	0
Gjoa Haven	4	2	2
Grise Fiord	0	0	0
Hall Beach	0	0	0
Igloolik	10	2	8
Iqaluit	16	8	8
Kimmirut	0	0	0
Kugaaruk	5	2	3
Kugluktuk	0	0	0
Nauyasat	0	0	0
Pangnirtung	55	10	45
Pond Inlet	6	2	4
Qikiqtarjuag	18	3	15
Rankin Inlet	0	0	0
Resolute Bay	0	0	0
Sanikiluaq	0	0	0
Taloyoak	0	0	0
Whale Cove	0	0	0

B. Types of Calls

Incoming Human Exposure Calls	55
Information and Other Calls	0