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July 24, 2025

The Honourable Lori Idlout  
Member of Parliament for Nunavut  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear MP Idlout,

I'm writing to share an urgent concern about our community's worsening food insecurity, and the devastating consequences we are now facing since Jordan's Principle (JP) and the Inuit Child First Initiative (ICFI) stopped supporting food vouchers in our community.

Although ICFI can support individuals for food, it discourages applicants as they need a "professional" letter to be included in their application. Applicants go to social services and nurses however; they are very busy to write letters and let applicants wait a long time or end up not writing the support letter at the end.

As you know, the cost of food in Nunavut is already extremely high. Since these supports were withdrawn, prices have gone up further, and even working families can no longer make it to the next payday. People are increasingly requesting food or borrowing money just to feed their children. Parents are stressed and struggling. Children are hungry.

Nunavut Maligaliurvia  
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

We are now seeing the real human cost of this hardship. Since the removal of food support, our community has lost three children to suicide—aged 14, 13, and 10. We cannot say for certain what led to each tragedy, but we know that hunger, stress, and poverty weigh heavily on young people. Not having enough to eat is affecting the mental health and well-being of our entire community.

When the Hamlets were previously able to apply for food vouchers through JP and ICFI, there was a noticeable difference. Families felt supported, children were happier, and the general atmosphere in the community improved. Managers and supervisors told me their staff were more focused and less stressed, simply because they weren't constantly worrying about how to feed their families.

That support is now gone—and we are witnessing the consequences.

I am asking for your help in:

- Advocating urgently for the reinstatement of food vouchers under Jordan's Principle and ICFI in our community.
- Bringing the federal government's attention to the reality on the ground here: children going hungry, families under stress, and communities in mourning.
- Supporting emergency measures to address the immediate crisis, while also pushing for long-term solutions to food insecurity in Nunavut.

We appreciate everything you do to stand up for Nunavummiut. We are asking for your leadership and voice once again—to speak boldly, clearly, and urgently about what is happening to our children and families.



Please let us know what next steps we can take, or how we can support your efforts to advocate for this essential support to be restored.

Qujannamiik / Thank you,

Karen Nutarak  
Tununiq MLA  
Pond Inlet

C.c: Premier PJ Akeeagok  
NTI President Jeremy Tunraluk

Attached are the prices of Northern Store #528 and Tununiq Sauniq Co-operative.