oo>゚ L⊂し⊂▷゚₲◁ Legislative Assembly of Nunavut



Nunavut Maligaliurvia Assemblée législative du Nunavut

July 15, 2025

The Honourable David Joanasie, MLA Minister of Environment Office of the Minister Legislative Assembly Precinct 926 Sivumugiaq Street Iqaluit, NU X0A 3H0

Dear Minister Joanasie:

As you will recall, the Government of Nunavut participated in a ceremony held on July 9, 2019, to "... celebrate the signing of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement (IIBA)." The tripartite announcement indicated that:

"An Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) for Canadian Heritage Rivers in Nunavut covers the following Nunavut rivers: the Coppermine River (Qurluktuk), the **Kazan River** (Sarvaqtuuq), the Soper River (Kuujuaq) and the **Thelon River** (Akillinik). The Impact and Benefit Agreement includes any matter connected with the proposed conservation area that would have a detrimental impact on Inuit, or that could reasonably provide a benefit on Inuit, including: cooperative management, continuation of Inuit harvesting rights, and Inuit employment and economic benefits.

Canada will provide \$6.7 million to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Kivalliq Inuit Association, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association for implementation of the IIBA. Funding will support activities such as Heritage Rivers water quality monitoring, Inuit cultural camps for adjacent communities, and the establishment of a business opportunities fund.

Canada will also provide the Government of Nunavut with funding for incremental activities associated with the implementation of the IIBA."

Ministerial correspondence to my predecessor dated September 9, 2019, indicated that:

"A final funding agreement has yet to be reached with regards to the Government of Canada's commitment to provide incremental funding up to \$2.0 million over seven years for the Government of Nunavut's implementation responsibilities related to the IIBA-CHRS.

These responsibilities include such matters as compensation in case of bear kills in defence of life or property (Article 5); updating river management plans for all CHRS rivers in Nunavut (Article 6); developing communication materials (Article 7); the protection of archaeological sites (Article 9); employment opportunities (Article 11): marketing of CHRS rivers as tourism destinations (Article 12); and the installation of new CHRS commemorative plaques (Article 15).

The Government of Nunavut's IIBA-CHRS implementation responsibilities are in addition to its ongoing work related to territorial parks. The Department of Environment's Nunavut Parks and Special Places Division is committed to the revitalization of Inuujaarvik Campground Territorial Park in Baker Lake."

I am pleased to take this opportunity to ask that your reply to my correspondence include a comprehensive and detailed update on the status of the implementation of the *Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for Canadian Heritage Rivers in Nunavut*, and that this update specifically identify how many positions in Baker Lake are associated with the *Agreement*.

I look forward to your reply.

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Yours sincerely,

Craig Simailak, MLA

Baker Lake

c.c. Minister responsible for Parks Canada
President, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Chairperson, Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization
Mayor and Council, Municipality of Baker Lake



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August 12, 2025

Craig Simailak, MLA
Baker Lake
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
926 Sivumugiaq Street
Igaluit, NU X0A 3H0

RE: Canadian Heritage Rivers Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA)

Dear MLA Simailak,

Thank you for your letter dated July 15, 2025, regarding the implementation of the Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) for Canadian Heritage Rivers in Nunavut.

The Department of Environment (ENV) remains committed to fulfilling the Government of Nunavut's responsibilities under the IIBA. Since the signing of the agreement in 2019, we have undertaken several initiatives.

As required by the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) and the CHRS-IIBA for Canadian Heritage Rivers in Nunavut, the 20-year Monitoring Report of the Kazan, Thelon and Soper Heritage Rivers have now been completed. In Kugluktuk, ENV is awaiting the Kitikmeot Inuit Association's direction to proceed with the designation process of the Coppermine River.

ENV has also hired a Coordinator of Heritage Rivers Planning and Management based in Baker Lake to lead work and projects in support of the goals and outcomes of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System 2020-2030 Strategic Plan and the IIBA. This is the only Government of Nunavut position directly tasked with the CHRS program and



implementation of this IIBA, and the position is staffed by a Nunavut Inuk. ENV is not privy to information regarding how many positions within the Regional Inuit Associations (RIAs) are associated with the implementation of this IIBA, the location of such positions, nor any changes that may occur.

ENV met with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the three RIAs, and the Government of Canada, in November 2024 to share information and provide updates on the Canadian Heritage Rivers IIBA and CHRS program.

Work has begun on the update of the Soper River Stewardship Plan in collaboration with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, the Hamlet of Kimmirut, Mayukalik Hunters and Trappers Organization, and the Kimmirut Community Joint Planning and Management Committee.

Of relevance to Baker Lake, the Inuujaarvik Territorial Park campground is scheduled to receive repairs in the summer or fall of 2025.

If there is anything else, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Qujannamiik,

Hon. David Joanasie Minister of Environment

Cc. Pauloosie Suvega, Deputy Minister of Environment Steven Guilbeault, Minister responsible for Parks Canada Kono Tattuinee, President of Kivalliq Inuit Association Chairperson, Baker Lake HTO James Taipana, Mayor of Baker Lake