



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.

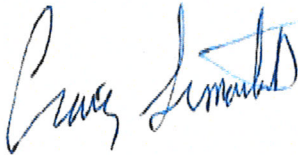
These responsibilities include such matters as compensation in case of bear kills in defence of life or property (Article 5); updating river management plans for all CHRS rivers in Nunavut (Article 6); developing communication materials (Article 7); the protection of archaeological sites (Article 9); 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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Craig Simailak".

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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Assemblée législative du Nunavut

15, 2025

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Craig Semelko

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