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Hamlet of Pond Inlet  
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August 12, 2025

**To:** Lori Idlout, Member of Parliament for Nunavut

**From:** Joshua Arreak, Mayor, Hamlet of Pond Inlet

**Subject:** Immediate Federal Funding Required for Critical Health and Infrastructure Projects

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## Purpose

To secure immediate Federal funding for urgent public health, safety, and economic development priorities in Pond Inlet, Nunavut. These matters require action now to prevent further harm and long-term socio-economic consequences.

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## Background & Current Situation

### 1. Mental Health Crisis Following Tragedy

- **Event:** Pond Inlet has suffered the suicides of two 13-year-old children and one 10-year-old child.
  - **Federal Commitment:** Previous verbal assurances of funding for mental health and healing services have not yet been fulfilled.
  - **Impact:**
    - In a small northern community where nearly, all residents are connected by family or friendship, such tragedies cause deep, widespread grief.
    - The loss has triggered community-wide trauma, strained limited counselling resources, and increased mental health risks for both youth and adults.
    - Without intervention, the emotional harm will have generational impacts.
  - **Need:** Immediate, culturally appropriate, and sustained counselling and support programs.
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### 2. Paved & Extended Airstrip

- **Problem:** The current gravel runway is too short to accommodate jet service.
- **Impact:**
  - Increased cost of goods and travel.

- Limited medical evacuation capabilities.
    - Lost opportunity for Pond Inlet to function as a regional hub.
  - **Proposed Action:** Federal investment in extending and paving the runway to enable regular jet service and improve supply reliability.
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### 3. Safe Drinking Water

- **Problem:** Longstanding water quality issues remain unresolved. A planned new water station has been in “planning” for nearly four years; the geotechnical study is still incomplete.
  - **Impact:**
    - Ongoing public health risks.
    - Declining trust in basic services.
  - **Proposed Action:** Immediate funding to complete site work and commence construction.
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### 4. Bridge Over Salmon Creek

- **Problem:** Absence of a permanent bridge leaves critical routes vulnerable to unsafe or impassable conditions.
  - **Impact:**
    - Delayed emergency responses.
    - Unsafe travel for residents.
  - **Proposed Action:** Federal funding for engineering, design, and construction of a permanent bridge.
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### 5. Road Paving & Dust Mitigation

- **Problem:** Gravel roads generate severe dust pollution, worsening respiratory conditions and reducing quality of life.
  - **Impact:**
    - Increased strain on the health care system.
    - Damage to property and infrastructure.
  - **Proposed Action:** Federal support to pave primary roads and reduce dust-related health issues.
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## Consequences of Inaction

- Worsening mental health crisis, particularly among youth.
  - Continued infrastructure-related safety risks.
  - Preventable health problems from poor air and water quality.
  - Loss of economic opportunities and higher cost of living.
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## Recommendation

That the Federal Government:

1. Commit immediate funding for mental health services in Pond Inlet.
  2. Allocate dedicated infrastructure funds for the airstrip, water station, Salmon Creek bridge, and road paving.
  3. Establish clear timelines for project delivery to ensure no further delays.
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Sincerely,

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