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September 2, 2025

Karen Nutarak MLA, Tununiq

RE: Question 1249-6(2) – Transportation

Dear MLA Nutarak,

I am writing as a follow-up to a question you brought forward during oral question period on May 27, 2025, regarding transportation initiatives underway. I would like to take the opportunity to elaborate on a few topics we covered during our exchange.

Fencing

The Nunavut Airport Division is aware that there are issues with sections of the fencing at the Pond Inlet Airport. The Division is developing a capital project to replace the fence, and is also exploring options to advance the project through the federal Airports Capital Assistance Program.

Taxiway and Apron

Airport taxiways and aprons are not subject to the same types of stresses as the runways, and it is not unusual for them to be rehabilitated less frequently than the runways. Like all of our airport operating surfaces, the taxiways and aprons are inspected regularly, and the airport maintenance staff are trained and equipped to take appropriate action if they note any specific concerns with the Pond Inlet runway, or the taxiway and apron.

Ministry of Transport

While I have not yet had an opportunity to meet in person with the federal Minister of Transport, given the urgency and scope of challenges we are aiming to address, I have requested we meet in advance of the Federal, Provincial/Territorial meeting which is typically held near the end of February.

The meeting request was preceded a letter to Minster Freeland, detailing some of the major challenges we are facing within our transportation portfolio, and expressing our desire to collaborate on Nunavut's transportation priorities.

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There are currently many discussions underway on how to advance arctic security and sovereignty. I am optimistic that these discussions will result in funding opportunities to support our capital needs.

My department is committed to working closely with the Ministry of Transport to address Nunavut's transportation infrastructure and service needs and I look forward to engaging with you in the coming weeks to discuss how that can benefit your constituents.

Sincerely,

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Hon. David Joanasie

Minister, Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut

Cc: Kyle Seeley, Deputy Minister

Brad McFaul, Policy and Planning