



Office of the President

November 15, 2018

The Honorable Graham Letto
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6
Email: grahamletto@gov.nl.ca


Dear Minister Letto,

On behalf of the NunatuKavut Community Council (NCC), the governing body for the Inuit of NunatuKavut, I wish to extend my sincere congratulations on your recent appointment as Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment. The Premier has placed great confidence in you and I am certain that your experience, your long-standing municipal involvement and your unique provincial perspective will serve you very well in your new capacity.

As you are aware, and as you have probably been briefed, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment has the responsibility of responding to the Independent Expert Advisory Committee (IEAC) recommendations relative to the Muskrat Falls Project. The IEAC independently assessed the adequacy of monitoring, mitigation, and management of the Project, with a focus on methylmercury production in the Lower Churchill River and the affected areas in the Lake Melville watershed. The level of expertise and effort that went into the work of the IEAC was considerable and done with much rigour.

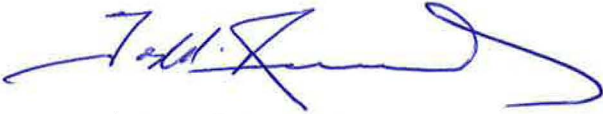
On April 10th, the IEAC provided your predecessor(s) a second set of recommendations with respect to protecting the well-being and health of Southern Inuit, the Inuit of Nunatsiavut, other Indigenous peoples and the local population. Although NCC has inquired repeatedly with your predecessor(s) and other Provincial representatives as to when the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador intends to respond to these recommendations, we have received no affirmative response.

I wish to inform that in my capacity as President of NCC, I have held a number of conversations with Premier Ball, Minister Andrew Parsons, Deputy Minister Jamie Chippett, and Minister Lisa Dempster on this very important issue. In September we were invited to a meeting with representatives of Municipal Affairs and Environment who indicated that the Provincial governments response was imminent, but again there has been no response from the Province on this matter. As Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment, I trust you understand the urgency in providing the Inuit of NunatuKavut, other Indigenous peoples, as well as non-Indigenous people in Labrador an official response to these recommendations. It is imperative that we in NunatuKavut see the next steps the Province intends to pursue that demonstrates real and tangible action towards protecting the health and well-being of our people.

I look forward to your timely response and would like to arrange a time to meet regarding the above matter and other issues which relate to your portfolio. Please have your officials contact my Executive Assistant, Frank Holley at (709) 896-0592 ext 225 or at executiveasst@nunatukavut.ca to arrange this meeting.

Congratulations once again and I look forward to our working together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd Russell", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Todd Russell, President
NunatuKavut Community Council