



July 20, 2022

The Honourable David Akeeagok, MLA  
Minister of Economic Development and Transportation  
Office of the Minister  
Legislative Assembly Precinct  
Iqaluit, NU  
X0A 0H0

#50-6(2)

Oct 31/22

Dear Minister Akeeagok:

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Hudson Bay.

As you are aware, the 2016-2017 to 2018-2019 annual reports on the administration of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's Country Food Distribution Program were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 6, 2019. These reports indicated that the Municipality of Sanikiluaq received a combined total of \$179,356 in funding during this period for activities related to the construction and repair of our community freezer.

Concerns have raised with me that the high cost of electricity currently prevents the municipality from being able to operate the freezer. It is my understanding that these costs are in excess of \$30,000 per year.

As you will appreciate, it is vitally important that such infrastructure be fully utilized, given the investments made in its construction and its role in enhancing food security for my constituents.

I strongly support this important program and note that the *Country Food Distribution Program Policy* sunsetted on March 31, 2020. In reviewing the current policy, I note that Schedule A indicates that:

"Communities in which the utilities or maintenance costs of the community freezer or other country food infrastructure are not covered by another Government of Nunavut department are also eligible for additional utilities and maintenance funding ... if program funds are available, a further contribution of up to \$30,000 may be made to each community on or after October 1.

Such additional contributions will be made through the amendment of the Conditional Contribution Agreement. Communities where the utilities or maintenance costs of the local community freezer or other country food infrastructure are not covered by another Government of Nunavut department are also eligible for up to \$10,000 for utilities, basic maintenance and small improvement costs per year. The department may approve utilities and maintenance costs above \$10,000 if program funds are available."

In reviewing Schedule 1 of the government's *Community Development Grants and Contributions Policy*, which is administered by the Department of Community and Government Services, I note that it indicates that "funding is used to offset the cost of providing specific municipal programs and services, including ... utilities." However, it is not clear if the cost of operating a community freezer is considered to be a core "municipal program and service".

I ask that your department's program administrators contact the Municipality of Sanikiluaq to provide the necessary documentation and assistance required to apply for funding under Schedule A of the *Country Food Distribution Program Policy* to offset the cost of utilities associated with the operation of the Sanikiluaq community freezer.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,



Daniel Qavvik, MLA  
Hudson Bay

c.c. Minister of Community and Government Services  
Minister of Environment  
Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation  
Mayor of Sanikiluaq  
Chairperson, Sanikiluaq Hunters and Trappers' Association



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Building Nunavut Together  
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Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

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Minister of Economic Development and Transportation  
Ministaat Pivalliajuliqijitkut Ingilrajuliqijitkullu  
Ministre du Développement économique et des Transports

October 5, 2022

Daniel Qavvik  
MLA for Hudson Bay  
P.O. Box 228  
Sanikiluaq, NU  
X0A 0W0

Dear Mr. Qavvik,

Thank you for your letter dated July 20, 2022 in which you inquired about the funding for the utilities and maintenance of the Sanikiluaq community freezer.

I share your belief in the importance of community freezers and the role they play in supporting the harvesting economy and enhancing local food security, and I am pleased to see that the Hamlet of Sanikiluaq has applied for and received funding through this program in past years.

The current Country Food Distribution Program Policy is scheduled for renewal. My department is looking at ways to improve the policy, and I look forward to the results of that renewal process by the end of this fiscal year. In the meantime, the current policy will remain in use.

As you note, there may be opportunities for the Hamlet of Sanikiluaq to apply for additional funds to cover utilities and maintenance costs. My department maintains an active relationship with the Hamlet of Sanikiluaq, and our staff from the Qikiqtaaluk Community Operations has reconnected with the hamlet to offer assistance in applying for the utilities and maintenance funding for the community freezer.

Thank you again for bringing these matters to my attention,

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David Akeeagok  
Minister of Economic Development and Transportation

