



Lori Idlout, MP for Nunavut
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House of Commons
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February 3, 2025

To Mayors in Nunavut

RE: Inuit Child First Initiative funding

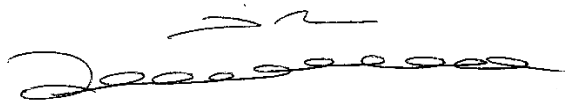
I have received several letters from municipalities regarding the Inuit Child First Initiative (ICFI). I share your concern that the funding for ICFI will be sunsetting at the end of March. I understand how critical ICFI is for the well-being of Inuit children and families. My team has gathered the numbers from every hamlet in Nunavut. With 18 of 25 hamlets reporting over 13,000 Inuit children are enrolled in the program.

I have urged Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and the minister to extend the program. It appears that none of our voices matter to the prime minister and to Minister Hadju, who are ignoring all of us. In summary, I have:

1. January 2025 – Numerous inquiries by my team to Minister Hadju’s office have been ignored. I have spoken directly with Minister Anandasangaree urging his government to respond.
2. September 2024 – Order Paper response: There was a \$438 million lapse in the Jordan’s Principle and ICFI in 2023. This is disturbing to allow monies to lapse that could have gone to good use for children in need.
3. May 2024 – During question period, I asked the Prime Minister to do better and in his response, while he agreed more needed to be done, that is all he did: [May 1 Hansard](#)
4. May 2024 – During the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Committee, I asked Minister Hadju to respond, but she could not: [May 29 INAN](#)
5. February 2024 – I raised my concern that ICFI is sunsetting and the liberals did not respond: [Feb. 28 Statement](#)
6. February 2024 – I demanded that indigenous programs including ICFI demanding the reversal of decisions, so that ICFI does not sunset: [Feb. 18 Question in QP](#)
7. December 2023 – I raised my concerns about funding for ICFI: [Dec. 11, 2023 Speech](#)

I am not giving up. I brought up the issue again with Minister Anandasangaree as he replaced Minister Vandal as Minister responsible for Northern Affairs. I expressed my concerns about Minister Hadju's lack of response and proposed that the government, at a minimum, must extend the funding commitment for at least one year with a commitment to review a replacement of the program. A review could lead to a permanent replacement program.

My team and I will continue to press the federal government for answers on funding for ICFI. I promise to keep you in the loop on our progress.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lori Idlout', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lori Idlout, MP for Nunavut

Cc: Premier P.J. Akeeagok
Jeremy Tunraluk, President of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.