



House of Commons



To the Inuit Representatives on the Inuit Crown Partnership Committee,

Do not be misled.

The profits from mining will go to shareholders of mining companies, not to Inuit in Nunavut. These projects will not enrich Nunavut. The money will leave, the land will be damaged, and our children will remain in poverty.

Respecting Inuit rights and title means respecting the Nunavut Agreement. The Nunavut Agreement sets out an environmental assessment process to protect Inuit voices. Unfortunately, to date, most processes used by the Institutions of Public Government (IPGs) have not respected Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. If you have not read “*I Will Live for Both of Us - A History of Colonialism, Uranium Mining, and Inuit Resistance*”, I strongly suggest that you do so. The book was written by Joan Scottie, Warren Bernauer, and Jack Hicks. I quote from Joan Scottie’s book,

“Without a doubt, this co-management framework looks pretty good on paper. There appear to be many opportunities for community participation, and several checks and balances to protect the environment. However, my community’s experiences with gold and uranium mining show that our ability to influence these processes is actually very limited. Ultimately, this system leaves real power in the hands of the mining companies.”

All major development projects and projects of national interest must better ensure that Inuit are heard during IPG's processes. This is not optional. It is essential and it must be upheld within the Building Canada Act.

Indeed, we need more projects like the Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link. It has been moving through prescribed processes, including extensive community consultation. Being Inuit-owned and Inuit-led, it respects the feedback from the Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO), and honours IPG processes

The government has a constitutional duty to obtain the free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) of Indigenous peoples. This means meaningful consultation. Bill C-5 did not ensure FPIC. Indigenous peoples throughout Canada continue to voice their opposition to this new law that sets a dangerous standard.

As Youth Representative Jennifer Kilabuk urged in her speech to the Inuit leaders at the Arctic Security and Sovereignty Summit,

“Northern growth must create jobs, training, and ownership for Inuit—not just for outsiders. Inuit youth deserve real pathways into leadership, science, trades, and governance. True development means investing in people, not just projects. Arctic development must be sustainable, respectful, and led by Inuit priorities. Infrastructure should serve Inuit communities—not just industry or military needs.”

Do not be bought by false promises or empty words. Bill C-5 risks undermining our rights and weakening our future. We must do what we can to protect our lands and our rights. We must ensure that the standard that was created in passing Bill C-5 does not pave the way to violate Indigenous Peoples’ rights.

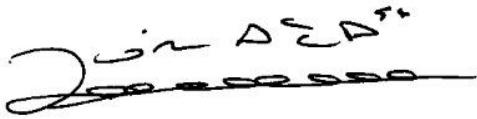
If Bill C-5 continues as it is, Inuit children will remain in poverty, parents will not be able to provide for their families, and our lands will be ruined. Caribou will be driven away by industry, whose only objective is to give profits to shareholders outside of Nunavut.

During your dialogue with the Prime Minister, I urge you to:

1. Protect Inuit rights: ensure that the environmental assessment processes are just not at the top of a very low bar, that indeed Inuit will be heard;
2. Hear directly from the Hunters and Trappers Organizations. Their mandate in the Nunavut Agreement in article 5 clarifies that “all Inuit shall have the free and unrestricted right of access for the purpose of harvesting to all lands, water and marine areas within the Nunavut Settlement Area”;
3. Stand in solidarity with First Nations and Métis in Canada, whose environmental assessment processes are violated through the exceptions created in important legislation that protects their rights;
4. In protecting Inuit rights, you must, first and foremost ensure that Inuit children stop being in poverty, that parents have safe, comfortable homes and the focusses of national interest projects include projects like:
 - a. Sanirajak as a Nunavut base for Search and Rescue;

- b. Cambridge Bay airport being paved;
- c. Canadian Rangers and Search and Rescue Teams and Hunters and Trappers organizations are properly funded;
- d. Ensure that social programs that help Inuit children continue, such as the Inuit Child First Initiative's Hamlet Food Voucher program and the Early Years program;
- e. While there are much more we must guarantee, we must also ensure that federal programs that impact our lives are not cut. In particular, we must ensure that cuts to Indigenous Services Canada are not made as planned.

Taimakalauq,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lori Idlout' in Inuktitut syllabics, with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Lori Idlout, MP for Nunavut