



House of Commons



Hon. Mandy Gull-Masty  
Minister of Indigenous Services

Sent via email: [ministresa-ministeris@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:ministresa-ministeris@sac-isc.gc.ca)

Minister Gull-Masty,

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Indigenous Services.

As the NDP critic for Indigenous Services, I look forward to working with you on this portfolio. I am requesting a meeting at your earliest availability to discuss urgent matters related to Inuit children and families in Nunavut.

I understand there may be changes coming to Jordan's Principle and the Inuit Child First Initiative (ICFI). I would appreciate advance notice of any announcements and a full briefing on the nature and scope of the proposed changes.

Every day, I hear from constituents about the devastating levels of food insecurity in Nunavut. The high cost of living and the high cost of groceries are incredibly hard on the people of Nunavut. The discontinuation of the ICFI Hamlet Food Voucher program has only made a bad situation worse.

Over 15,000 Inuit children were supported by this program. They were cut off without warning, and no replacement has been offered.

Child poverty in Nunavut sits at 42%, the highest in the country. Without government transfers, that number would rise to 60%, according to the 2024 Report Card on Child Poverty in Nunavut. The Hamlet Food Voucher program helped close that gap. Its absence is being felt across our communities.

A letter from Tununig MLA Karen Nutarak speaks directly to this worsening crisis. As she wrote:

"As you know, the cost of food in Nunavut is already extremely high. Since these supports were withdrawn, prices have gone up further, and even working families can no longer make it to the next payday. People are increasingly requesting food or borrowing money just to feed their children. Parents are stressed and struggling. Children are hungry."

We are forwarding MLA Nutarak's letter to your office.

On August 14, I received a handwritten, three-page letter by mail from a 58-year-old Inuit man in Arctic Bay. The internet was down, so he wrote to me by hand. He described in heartbreaking detail how hungry he is, how few job opportunities exist, and how difficult it is to survive.

This is not an isolated experience. Food insecurity is chronic and widespread. Access to government transfers is limited by unreliable internet, language barriers, and bureaucratic delays, and the lack of community-based professionals who can assist with applications and letters of support. These barriers cannot be overlooked when assessing program effectiveness.

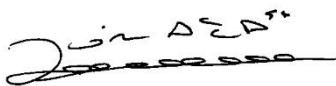
Families are under enormous strain. Communities are in mourning. In recent weeks, we've lost three young people to suicide. Hunger, stress, and poverty weigh heavily on our youth.

At the same time, we hear continued talk about "nation-building" infrastructure projects like the Grays Bay Road, meant to serve resource extraction. How do these projects address poverty in Grise Fiord or food insecurity in Resolute Bay? What benefit do they offer families trying to feed their children this week or this month?

There is no excuse for this federal government to continue to allow Nunavummiut to go hungry.

I urge you to meet with me to discuss the reinstatement of food voucher support through Jordan's Principle and the ICFI, and to ensure any changes to these programs reflect the urgent needs in Nunavut.

Taimakalauq,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori Idlout", with a stylized flourish underneath.

Lori Idlout, MP

Cc: Ginette Lavack, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indigenous Services