

24 November 2021

The Honourable Patty Hajdu
Minister of Indigenous Services, Government of Canada

The Honourable Julie Green
Minister of Health and Social Services, Government of the Northwest Territories

The Honourable Tracy-Anne McPhee
Minister of Health and Social Services, Government of Yukon

The Honourable Rebecca Schulz
Minister of Children's Services, Government of Alberta

Dear Ministers,

As you know, Bill C-92, also known as the *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* came into force on Jan. 1, 2020.

Under this law, Indigenous communities have the right to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services, based on their own history, culture and law, and as recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in its efforts to address the ongoing legacy of Residential Schools.

As a result, I am writing to officially serve notice under subsection 20(2) of *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* that the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation intends to exercise its legislative authority in relation to child and family services and requests to enter into a coordination agreement with your governments.

Today, the Board of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation passed a new law, *Inuvialuit Qitunrariit Inuuniarnikkun Maligaksat (Inuvialuit Family Way of Living Law)*, as well as several associated regulations. This legislation will ensure that Inuvialuit children, youth, and families are cared for in a way that is aligned with Inuvialuit priorities, and was produced through a meaningful process of consultation with our communities.


The law, its regulations, and the additional information requested by Indigenous Services Canada are attached to this letter and will also be posted on IRC's website.

This is simply the first step of this important work, and we look forward to initiating coordination agreement discussions with your Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments that will produce meaningful and sustainable commitments of support as we implement this new law.

Please have your officials contact Chief Administrative Officer Todd Orvitz at todd.orvitz@inuvaluit.com to begin these discussions.

The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation continues our work to uplift Inuvialuit children, youth, and families, and as the first Inuit body to establish a child welfare law, we are proud of this important achievement in the process of self-determination.

Sincerely,



Duane Ningaqsiq Smith
Chair and CEO
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Cc:

Shehnaz Ali, ADM, Insured Health and Social Services, Health and Social Services, Government of Yukon

Cynthia Dunnigan, ADM, Indigenous Partnerships and Strategic Services Branch, Children's Services, Government of Alberta

Caitlin Knutson, Senior Policy Advisor, Health and Social Services, Government of Yukon

Geraldine MacDonald, Director, Family and Children Services, Health and Social Services, Government of Yukon

Colette Prevost, Territorial Executive Director, Child and Family Services, Health and Social Services, Government of the Northwest Territories

Christine Raves, Senior Policy Officer, Health and Social Services, Government of the Northwest Territories