



January 31, 2017

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, On
K1A0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

RE: Response To US-Canada Joint Arctic Leaders' Statement

We are writing to express our disappointment with your unilateral decision to designate "all Arctic Canadian waters as indefinitely off limits to future Arctic oil and gas licencing, to be reviewed every 5 years".

As we are all aware through the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, a constitutionally protected claims agreement, the Inuvialuit have significant interest in the Arctic offshore area included as part of our Inuvialuit Settlement Region. We are offended that your Government which has espoused the importance of consulting with aboriginal Canadians on important matters of interest would take this decision without any notification to or consultation with the Inuvialuit or residents of Tuktoyaktuk.

This unilateral decision by Canada is also inconsistent with the aims of the Arctic Council which issued the following joint statement on the occasion of the Council's 20th anniversary, September 2016, to which Canada is a signatory:

"Our work aims to improve the well-being of Arctic residents, protect the Arctic environment, and promote sustainable development throughout the region including maintaining the cultural heritage and livelihoods of Arctic indigenous peoples.

Arctic cooperation encompasses all aspects of life and activity in the region. The Arctic Council is at the forefront of this cooperation and has become the most important body for promoting a positive agenda and coordinating joint action on all vital issues in the region. The success of the Arctic Council can also be attributed to the active participation of the indigenous Permanent Participants."

We believe that the issue of Arctic exploration is indeed a 'vital issue' that requires consultation with our communities by your government.

For over 50 years Inuvialuit of Tuktoyaktuk have worked closely with industry, government and all stakeholders to help manage oil and gas exploration activities within our region in both the onshore and offshore. Numerous offshore drilling programs have ensued during this time period with our participation and cooperation. As in all industrial operations occasional safety and environmental incidents have occurred. The Inuvialuit have been onsite during all industrial operations in our region and thus were able to participate in any clean-up activities and in the implementation of mitigative measures to minimize any negative impacts. Our co-management systems and bodies have been critical in ensuring that no long term negative impacts the environment has occurred from these offshore activities and we remain confident that through our participation in the co-management systems that offshore activities can continue to be undertaken in a safe and environmentally acceptable manner.

With no consultation with the people of our region 50 years of progress and cooperation among the various stakeholders has been reversed with an arbitrary decision from Ottawa and no initiative or suggestion from your Government as to how the economic benefits of offshore development will be replaced.

As you are aware the economic development opportunities in our region are severely limited and therefore, this decision will impair the ability of communities in our region, and most specifically Tuktoyaktuk from developing our economy, infrastructure and technology. It is the residents of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region who will be forced to suffer the consequence of this decision.

We note with interest that this same statement emphasized that Canada was committed to development of a new Arctic Policy Framework that would include as a priority the building of infrastructure and economic development in Arctic communities. Given the extreme consequences of this decision to our community and region, we urgently request that Canada include the Inuvialuit in a meaningful way in discussions and development of its new Arctic Policy Framework. We must also be included in the ongoing review of future Arctic oil and gas licencing as identified in the Joint Arctic Leaders' Statement.

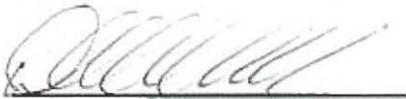
We also ask Canada to immediately address the infrastructure requirements in our region and specifically include our long standing request for funding for the establishment of an Arctic Port

in Tuktoyaktuk. We are very interested in any plans or recommendations from your Government as to how our economy will be diversified or how the benefits of industrial development could be replaced by other initiatives or enterprises.

We have been pleased to see that since your election as Prime Minister you have held "Town Hall" meetings across Canada which has afforded citizens the opportunity to ask questions and present their views directly to you. In keeping with the goal of including all residents of this country in matters of national interest we would like to invite you to visit Tuktoyaktuk and hold a town hall here in the Arctic so that we who are directly impacted by your decision have an opportunity to present our views to you in person.

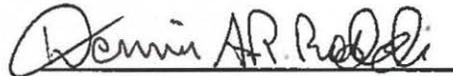
Thank you for your consideration of these matters and for your attention to our requests. We look forward to receiving a response from you.

Sincerely,



**Darrel Nasogaluak, Mayor
Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk**

Box 120
Tuktoyaktuk, NT
X0E 1C0
sao@tuktoyaktuk.ca



FOR

**Eddie Dillon, Chair
Tuktoyaktuk Community Corporation**

Box 350
Tuktoyaktuk, NT
X0E 1C0
manager@tukcommunitycorp.com

.cc **Duane Smith, Chair and CEO, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation**

Honourable Bob McLeod, Premier NW Territories

Herb Nakimayak, MLA

Michael McLeod, Member of Parliament