



TUNGASUVVINGAT INUIT LOOKS FORWARD TO ENHANCED WORK WITH THE FEDERAL LIBERAL PARTY FOR URBAN INUIT

OTTAWA, ON - OCTOBER 22, 2019



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Tungasuvvingat Inuit congratulates the Liberal Party of Canada on being selected by Canadians to continue its role to lead the nation as the federal governing party. Significant accomplishments have been achieved by the previous government and TI looks forward to continuing working directly with the Liberal government. As the urban population of Inuit has now exceeded 40%, the needs for services and programs for the urban Inuit population are growing significantly. Identifying and addressing these unique needs as the national public government will require a Non-Nunangat (traditional Inuit homelands) policy framework.

TI will continue to work directly with Inuit communities in Ottawa and Ontario while advocating on behalf of Inuit living outside of Inuit Nunangat. It is imperative for effective reconciliation that the new government understands the individual identities of Indigenous peoples of Canada and understands the uniqueness of each culture. Additionally, we invite the government to meet and discuss urban Inuit-specific issues. It is imperative the federal government be aware of issues like the portability of Inuit rights and understanding the requirement to offer supports for Inuit living away from the north. An Inuk is an Inuk, is an Inuk, regardless of geography and where they live.

For the many that have migrated to “The Fifth Region”, they do so not because they want to but, because they are forced to. Often there is no choice but to move south as the personal and financial cost of staying in the north is unsustainable. The lack of housing, the exorbitant cost of living, lack of employment, unavailability of proper healthcare, the pursuit of higher education, employment, and issues surrounding substance use and trauma are just some of the reasons for relocation.

The goal of TI is to make services and programs available to ensure the transition is made easier. TI offers more than twenty front line services and programs that require significant funding to operate. We look forward to continued relationship building, reconciliatory efforts on behalf of the Government of Canada and ultimately, enough supports and services for the Inuit community residing in the Fifth Region to be self-determined and have the equity of opportunity provided to all Canadians.