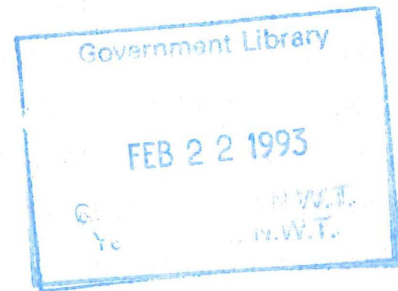


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 18 January 1993

Mr. Ludy Pudluk
 Member of the Legislative Assembly
 Government of the Northwest Territories
 Resolute Bay, NT XOA 0V0



Dear Mr. Pudluk:

Re: New Government Housing Policy

As our representative and Member of the Legislative Assembly, I ask for your help in stopping the proposed government housing policy. The following are my reasons for asking for your active support in opposing this policy.

1. Effect on Government Staff

I came to Arctic Bay four years ago to do the best job I could for the community. I was able to bring lots of training, education and experience and enthusiasm for the job. I did not come to make a "quick buck" but I do have a family to support and I must make a living. However, the new housing policy may prevent me from being able to support my family. It appears that my housing costs, including all utilities as outlined in the policy, will be about \$1800.00 per month. This will leave me a take-home pay of about \$700.00 per month. I don't think we can live in Arctic Bay on that.

If this policy is accepted, I will have no choice but to get a position elsewhere. I do not want to do this. I want to work in the N.W.T. I want to stay here but I have a responsibility to support my family.

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I can only speak for Arctic Bay but it is clear that the government staff here, including teachers, nurses, social services officers, renewable resources officers, dental therapist and adult educator are talented, hard-working people committed to the north and the Northwest Territories. There are no "quick-buck" people here and yet many of us will be forced out because we can't make a living. That is wrong and must be stopped. This experience and dedication should not be lost to the community and to the NWT.

2. Effect on Inuit Staff

While non-Inuit staff will be driven south it may be different for Inuit staff. This is their home, where they want to live and where their families are. However, this new policy may work toward them leaving government service as they may be better off in public housing and receiving social assistance. Surely that would work against what we have all been striving for -- increased employment and participation by Inuit people in the government of the N.W.T. Believe me, this housing policy will drive strong, capable and trained people away from public service. Why would anyone work for the government when they cannot survive on the income?

3. Lack of Choice

If you work for the government in Arctic Bay there is nowhere to live except in government housing. It may be that there are alternatives in larger communities but not here. That means your livelihood can be changed drastically not by collective bargaining where you have a chance to present your side but by the unilateral action of your landlord who is also your employer. That is simply not right nor just and certainly does not lead to a satisfied work force.

4. Lack of Fairness

I think all of us are prepared to consider a new housing policy but this must be arrived at openly. It must be comprehensive, covering all public/government housing, and it must be fair. Let me explain.

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I look down my street and see a large, newer public house with a household income similar to mine and where the rent is \$32.00 a month, all inclusive. I look the other way and see a household where the income is nearly triple mine, paying \$130.00 per month, all inclusive, for a much better house than mine. It is clear that my rent of about \$1800.00 and my taxes will be subsidising other rents in the community for people earning as much or more than I am. To pay \$1800.00 a month for my improperly wired and inadequately insulated house is neither fair nor sensible. Yes, let's review rents but let's do it fairly and for everyone.

As well, it appears that the rents in Arctic Bay will increase 145% to an average of \$654.00 per month, after the subsidy is received, while in Iqaluit the rents will increase by only 23.4 % for an average rental of \$225.00. That does not seem fair either.

The results of this new housing policy will be that:

- a) a lot of very good, dedicated people will be lost to the north
- b) many Inuit people will be forced to leave government service,
- c) all people in the Northwest Territories will suffer and will be poorly served because of this badly conceived policy.

A serious, comprehensive, fair review of housing and housing costs in the N.W.T. is certainly needed because the proposed new policy is clearly not the answer.

Thank you for your help in fighting this policy and, we hope, defeating it.

Best regards,



Berry Tibbitt

