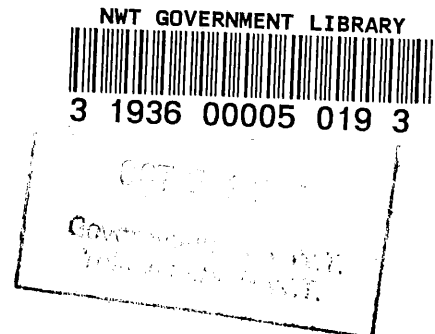


October 5, 1988

Mr. Donat Milortok,
President,
Tungavik Federation of Nunavut,
130 Slater Street,
Suite 1200,
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 6E2



Dear Mr. Milortok:

Following the strong concern you expressed about the position our government took on language rights as an item to be negotiated as part of your land claims agreement, the Executive Council has reviewed our position. We have considered at length a broad range of options open to the government.

As I am sure you are aware, from the point of view of the territorial government, this is an issue of considerable complexity. Factors which have been considered in our discussions include cost implications to this and future governments (including a Nunavut Territorial Government), legal and constitutional considerations, including the restrictions now imposed on us by amendments to the Official Languages Act, the limited availability of human resources, and the number of other aboriginal languages in the Northwest Territories.

I want to assure you that we do support your objectives of preservation, official recognition and strengthening of the Inuktitut language in the N.W.T. It is a priority of our government. However we need to take the time to sit down together to develop our strategies on this complex issue. We would like to develop a joint position with you which we could both present to the Federal Government at the claims table. In this way I am sure we will be able to develop strong proposals to persuade the Federal Government to modify their stand.

I would suggest that our Committee on Political and Constitutional Development and your Executive meet together as soon as possible to discuss and work together on a strategy. Please contact my office to arrange a convenient time and place. In the meantime, Mr. Patterson and I will look forward to accepting your kind invitation to attend your Annual General Meeting where we may be able to discuss this issue, the Northern Accord, and other subjects of mutual interest.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By
TITUS ALLOOLOO

Titus Allooloo,
Minister

c.c. Mr. Bob Kadlun,
Chief Negotiator,
TFN

Members,
Political and Constitutional
Development Committee