



SAPUNIAQTIIT

DRUG AND ALCOHOL CENTRE

ARVIAT, N.W.T. XOC OEO

March 8 , 1990

Minister of Justice,
Micheal Ballantyne
P.O. Box 1320,
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1a-2L9

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Government of N.W.T.
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Dear Minister Ballantyne;

I have been thinking about this for a long time. It is a subject of sniffing as a addiction in Arviat, N.W.T. and also in the other communities.

We know that it can kill people . I am writing to you about sniffing because I know that you can do something to help me with this problem in our communities.

Though I have been working here at the Drug & Alcohol Centre for the past 2 years. I've dealt with this , even in the past.

As I am now working as a Coordinator/Counsellor with the Drug & Alcohol Program, I have dealt with this when I was in other positions such as a Social Worker, and the Counsellor for the old Drug & Alcohol in the past. I fully understand that this problem has affected us greatly, and will keep doing so if we do not do something about it.

I come to where I can't do any more than just counsel the young and old. I come to the point where I seek for other help such as the RCMP, but due to their policies or laws, they really can't help me any further . They can only come as a concerned party.

I know that all problems will not be solved, but it would be of great help if it is put into law.

Why I'm thinking of putting sniffing into law, is because that from experience, I would like you to understand the difficulties we face in dealing with sniffers. Here are 2 examples that I have faced inthe past that I would like to share with you:

1) An 18 year old young adult died in 1986 from sniffing glue. I know that he would not have died, it the sniffing was in the law, because the mother tried 3 times to seek help from the RCMP. But they couldn't do any thing about it. When the mother went for help on the fourth try, it was already too late.

2) Just a few months ago, I dealt with a 19 year old aniffer. The sister kept calling myself and the RCMP late at night to help the sniffer. We went there, and took away the solvents that he was using. We then took him to the sisters house, and called the RCMP if he could at least get him out of that situation. But the RCMP said that he can't do anymore for him because he wasn't breaking the law. I was very scared for him cause I thought he was going to die in front of me.

Hoping that you understand ^{the} importance of this matter, and if you have any questions, or ^{more} information please don't hesitate to call me at this number. (819) 857-2902.

Sincerely,

Hattie Alagalak

Hattie Alagalak
Supervisor/Counsellor
Sapuniaqtiit Centre.

C.C.
Peter Ernerk, MLA
Gordon Wray, MLA