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Honorable Peter Ernerk,
Member of the Legislative Assembly,
Government of the Territories,
Yellowknife.

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Dear Peter,

Last time we met was around dear Bishop Robidoux' coffin in Saint Boniface.

Last time I heard you was yesterday morning on the CBC early news. The subject was not one you like to think about when you get up fresh and ready to start a new day: Aids. Somebody was first telling us that probably the Territories would be an example to Canada in the fight against aids. And then you came in -I recognized your voice very well- mentioning that all the school children in Nunatsiar know and are not ashamed to speak about condoms. I even learned the Eskimo name from you. Thank you.

But, dear Peter, is it because your children know about condoms and is it because they are given free of charge in Iqaluit by the local drugstore that AIDS is not a menace any more? Rubber is not foolproof, dear Peter, but a good conscience is. I think that it is of much greater importance to teach your children self-control and self-denying rather than to show them mechanical ways of avoiding any sickness related to the marvellous power given by God to the human race of propagating itself. Don't you agree?

I also hope that when the question of abortion will come up in your government, you will be the defensor of the unborn. You know that a little caribou in the womb of mother-caribou is a caribou who just start to grow; you know that the little chick under mother-ptarmigan will be a ptarmigan, not an elephant; you know that for a human mother, we say that she did conceive a child, nothing else... and still so many Canadians think nothing about killing those unborn human beings.

Concerning this question of abortion, I also wrote to Thomas Suluk, our member of Parliament now in Ottawa. Here is enclosed a copy of my letter to him. I am still waiting for an answer.

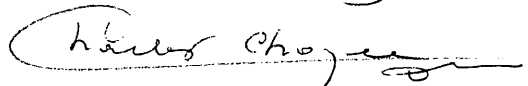
You will also notice that I am talking about a new book recently published, the biography of Father Joseph Buliard, many years ago a missionary in Repulse Bay, your birthplace, if I am not mistaken.

I would appreciate your suggestion on how to get this book available in our northern schools and even in families. It will be my pleasure to send you a copy if the local missionary doesn't have copies available.

I am sorry to take so much of your precious time, Peter, but I think the topics are very important: aids, abortion, education. May God keep the Inuit strong and united. May the love of the Inuit for children embrace also the unborn from the very start. May the government of the Territories be aware of his obligations to life.

Say hello to my old Inuit friends, please, Peter and may Bishop Robidoux and ataata Didier give you strength in your political career.

Sincerely,

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Charles Choque, O.M.I.