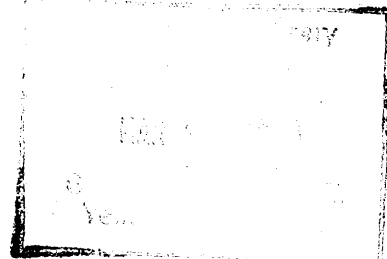


Pangnirtung Housing Association  
P O Box 104  
Pangnirtung N.W.T  
XOA ORO



March 12 1991

The Hon. Tom Butters,  
Minister of Housing  
Government of the NWT  
Yellowknife NWT  
X1A 2L9



Dear Hon. Butters:

We have just completed our negotiations for a two year contract with the Union of Northern Workers and wanted to bring you up to date. We acted very responsibly and only agreed to items within our budget limits. Even though the employees wanted more than we could afford, we stood firm and convinced them to accept less. During negotiations an issue was raised and we wanted to let you know about it as it was important to our employees.

Vacation travel assistance is important to our employees. As almost all our employees are Inuit from Pangnirtung, they want to go out on the land and we have encouraged them to do so through our Collective Agreement. Frankly this saves the N.W.T. Housing Corporation a lot of money as our employees could go to Montreal and provide a lot of money to southern companies and the Corporation would cover the costs under our funding arrangements.

We would prefer that the benefits remain in the community and that our employees take their families out on the land to encourage traditional and cultural ties. A land vacation is worth more to us as the employees return well rested and feeling at peace with themselves. Their families benefit and given the high costs of gas and food, they would not be able to afford a vacation on the land without our assistance.

While we are eligible to receive the full airfare benefit from the Corporation, we are not eligible to receive more than \$450. per employee, \$350. per spouse and \$150. per child, land travel benefits. This appears to discriminate against going out on the land. We do not provide the full cash equivalent of over \$1800. We only provide 38% per employee and a land travel benefit with reduced benefits for spouse and children. We receive 25% back from the Corporation.

While we are saving the Corporation money, we are being penalized for doing so. We would like to receive the full amount of our expenditure which would still save the Corporation thousands of dollars for employees taking land travel compared to the flights to Montreal.

We would appreciate any assistance you could provide to assist us in recovering what we believe is a cost saving benefit.

Sincerely,



Jack Maniapik  
Chairman of the Board

cc: Harnek Matheroo  
District Manager  
Iqaluit N.W.T.

Ipeelee Kilabuk  
MLA  
Baffin South