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Arctic Bay

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Broughton Island

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Cape Dorset

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Clyde River

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Grise Fiord

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Hall Beach

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Igloodik

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Iquluit

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Lake Harbour

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Pangninitung

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Pond Inlet

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Resolute Bay

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Sanikiluaq

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Arviat

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Baker Lake

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Chesterfield Inlet

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Coral Harbour

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Rankin Inlet

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May 5, 1996

The Honorable Goo Arlooktoo
Deputy Premier and Minister
Department of Public Works and Services
Government of the Northwest Territories
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9

Dear Honorable Arlooktoo;

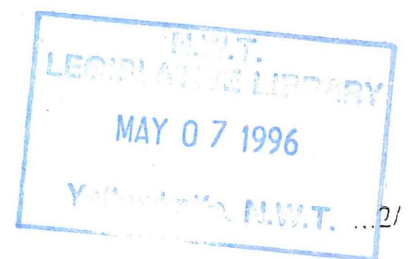
I am writing further to your statement of privilege to the NWT Legislative Assembly Friday May 3, 1996. Your statement was in response to certain statements that I allegedly made as reported in the May 3rd issue of the Nunatsiaq News concerning Article 24.

I am disappointed and shocked that the Nunatsiaq News would choose to falsely attribute statements to me concerning conversations that you and I never had as well as statements that the Cabinet was deliberately delaying coming to a decision on how to implement Article 24.

I am also disappointed that you chose to respond to this article without verifying the accuracy of my comments by speaking to me first and that you elected to air your concerns on the Nunatsiaq News article via Point of Privilege in the Legislative Assembly. A direct attack on my veracity based on a news account is, I believe, an unfortunate use of the powerful tool that is the member's privilege.

Todd Phillips of the Nunatsiaq News reported that we had spoken on this issue while in fact we have never spoken about Article 24 at any time. Therefore it is not true that I have been urging you directly to respect the land claim agreement. Nor is true that I said that you told me that you were under pressure from other Cabinet Colleagues who were not as eager to see Article 24 implemented.

I have left all of the formal discussions on this matter to our President, Jose Kusugak who has certainly written to you on this subject several times and may also have spoken with you as well.



NTI and the Article 24 Working Group are looking forward to the statement that you are expected to make on Monday concerning the Government of the Northwest Territories' intentions regarding the implementation of Article 24. I hope that this will be a positive statement and will outline clearly the steps that the GNWT will be taking to ensure that they begin to comply with the terms of the Article.

I will be sending a copy of this letter to the media to set the record straight and also since my integrity has been brought into question.

Sincerely,



Tagak Curley

cc Members of the Legislative Assembly
Speaker of the NWT Legislative Assembly
Jose Kusugak
Nunatsiaq News
CBC North
News North