

TABLING STATEMENT

MEMBER: MR. MARK EVALOARJUK

TOPIC: RESTRUCTURING NWT LIBRARIES

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a letter I received from Jesse Nutarak, Chairperson of the Pond Inlet Community Education Council in support of the government's initiative to extend library services to all NWT libraries. However, the Pond Inlet Community Education Council strongly objects to reducing funding to the Pond Inlet Public Library as a means to achieve this goal.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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Ulaajuk School

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Date: February 11, 1997

To: Mark Evaluajuk
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From: Emilia Tongak
for Chairperson

Number of pages being transmitted including this page: 3

Message:

Community Education Council
Pond Inlet, NWT
XOA OSO

February 07, 1997

Mark Evaluarjuk
MLA
C/O Legislative Assembly
Yellowknife, NWT

Dear Mark,

Re: Restructuring NWT Libraries

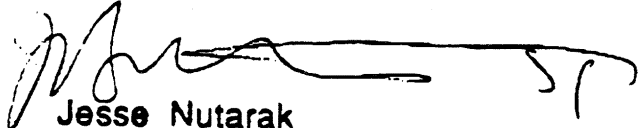
Let me begin by stating that the Pond Inlet CEC is in support of the GNWT's plan to extend library services to all NWT communities. We also support the government's initiative to make use of the Internet in extending public library services.

However, we strongly disagree that the way to do this is to redistribute the existing funding for library services. Cutting back the Pond Inlet Public Library from \$19,382 to a suggested \$8,504 will seriously impact on the number of hours that our public library is open. From a literacy perspective, we have been campaigning this year for more public library hours for Pond Inlet, certainly not less.

We believe that improving literacy and the access to information via the Internet is the key to the future development and growth of northern communities. Library services is far too important to fall under current GNWT fiscal restraint policies. The GNWT should be planning for the future of Nunavut by increasing, not decreasing the budget for community libraries.

Mark, by copy of this letter, we are requesting that you relay our concerns about this very important issue to the appropriate government minister.

Yours truly,



Jesse Nutarak
Chairperson
Pond Inlet
Community Education Council

cc: Pond Inlet CEC members
Pond Inlet Library Board

