



NUNAVUT TUNNGAVIK INC. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Rankin Inlet, Nunavut

November 15-17, 2021

Resolution No. RSA-21-11-15

Suicide Prevention

Moved by: Gibson Porter

Seconded by: Peter Taktogon

WHEREAS death by suicide in Nunavut was declared an epidemic in 2013, resulted in an inquest by the Nunavut Chief Coroner, and declared a crisis by the Premier of Nunavut in the Nunavut Legislative Assembly in 2015;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Nunavut (GN), in partnership with NTI and other community organizations, developed a suicide prevention action plan called Inuusivut Anninaqtuq Action Plan 2017-2022 which expires in a few months;

AND WHEREAS youth in Nunavut including the NTI Special Representative for Youth, are rising in protest, demanding help, as they continue to lose their peers by suicide at an alarming rate;

AND WHEREAS the current colonial system of government is denying Inuit many basic rights to live and prosper as an Inuk in an Inuit-majority society;

AND WHEREAS significantly more Inuit in Nunavut died by suicide since March 2020, than from the COVID-19 virus;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut since early 2020 have demonstrated with the COVID-19 pandemic, that when there is the will to act in the face of a crisis, the funding and resources can be made available;

AND WHEREAS the Members previously expressed the need for more specialized mental health services in all communities, including Inuit and Inuit Elders as counsellors and access to Inuktitut counselling, which is paramount to addressing colonialism and intergenerational trauma that underpin the wider social and economic inequities that cause distress among Nunavut Inuit, and is the root cause of the suicide crisis in Nunavut;

AND WHEREAS there is an urgent need to create social equity by addressing poverty, educational attainment, access to health care, housing, and food security at the community level, among other things;

AND WHEREAS the Inuusivut Anninaqtuq Action Plan 2017-2022 has not fully achieved its intended results;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Members calls on the Government of Nunavut to

- (1) complete the comprehensive evaluation of the Inuusivut Anninaqtuq Action Plan;
and
- (2) working with Inuit Organizations and others, identify effective, actionable solutions for suicide prevention prior to the development of a new action plan.

In Favour: 18

Against:

Abstentions: 1

Carried:

Defeated:

Dated: November 17, 2021