

(Email: November 22, 2014)

RE: Inuit citizens in Rankin Inlet scavenging garbage dumps to avoid starvation (support)

Dear Sam Tutanuak,

I saw you on APTN Investigates.

I was very moved by your honesty and I felt there was a lot of honour in your tears.

I don't know any person living there who would not have the humanity to be emotional about the suffering of the people, especially someone like yourself who is in a position of responsibility to serve the people well and to take action to alleviate suffering.

When I saw you express yourself, telling the story of your people, that's what I saw you doing - I saw you take action through communicating, so I think that you should feel proud of yourself for doing something honourable.

I'm glad that you swore on television. What you are living through is outrageous, and sometimes the only words we can use are those that express our outrage.

I would like you to know that there are many Canadians in the south who do care very much about the conditions that you are living in.

I am very upset to see elders, adults, and children struggling so hard to survive in the north, such as you and your fellow people in Rankin Inlet.

As you said, I believe that more support should go to Canadians in the north, rather than to provide aid to people in foreign countries.

I want you to see this post that I saw about how the money that the federal government initially set aside to flow to aid to those in foreign countries was not spent.

The amount is \$125 million dollars.

I think that if they could not spend that Canadian taxpayer money in foreign countries, that they should have, at the very least, sent it to you to help you buy the food that you need to be healthy and happy and more relaxed individuals.

Inuit people should not be stressed out about poverty, hunger, and illness due to lack of access to affordable and nutritious food. The emotional illness due to the understandable shame and sadness that Canadians aren't caring enough, especially those in government with the power to make decisions to change lives, is just as devastating.

Here is the article that I was telling you about how they returned the money instead of spending it on providing help:

http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2014/11/20/foreign-affairs-canada-lapsed-funds_n_6194630.html

Sam, in my message below, I want to show you that I wrote to the federal leader of the NDP: Thomas Mulcair, the leader of the federal Liberal Party - Justin Trudeau, and the federal leader of the Green Party Elizabeth May, to ask them to do something to help your people.

The Conservatives, and sadly Minister Aglukkaq, did not support you. Hopefully, the leaders of the other political parties will form power or find a way to support you.

I wish you positive thoughts, and emotional support. Even though I am far away from you by distance, I hope that my words and feelings will reach you and offer you some comfort.

Please know that you are not alone. I am a person who thanks you for stepping forward to tell your people's story. No matter how terrible and uncomfortable it is, Canadians must know it. I have shared the APTN video with my friends on Facebook, and I have asked them to share it with their friends too.

Also, please tell Lucy Wiebe that I thought that she was very brave to talk about this as well. I know that she was smiling as she spoke, because I know that is simply her way, and her kindness, and her goodness shining through, but I know that she was suffering too. I will send Lucy my thoughts, good feelings, and prayers, and I hope that this will help her and her husband too.

And, I will send my good thoughts to those who are hunting. I hope that they will come home with community meat.

Keep strong, and I wish you and your people all the very best, Sam.

Cindy Babyn
Ottawa

In response to the APTN Investigates' Video Report called [Wasting Away](#) in which Deputy Mayor Sam Tutanuak makes comments

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