

URBAN INUIT IN ONTARIO COUNTING ON LIBERAL GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE SUPPORTS FOR GROWING POPULATION

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OTTAWA, ON - [Tungasuvvingat Inuit](#) (TI) congratulates the Liberal Party of Canada on being re-elected in leading the nation as the federal governing party. TI is pleased with the relationships with the Liberal government and we look forward to continued support for the growing urban Inuit population across Ontario. As we reflect, we are pleased with the accomplishments achieved, the increased interest in strategic partnerships and the increased funding. We are encouraged and look forward to ongoing favourable outcomes in our relationship with the Liberal government. It is important to note that the [2016 Census released data that substantiated urban Inuit populations that exceed 40%](#). Based on the explosive population growth, the need for services and programs for urban Inuit continue to match the population increase. Identifying and addressing these unique needs as the national public government will require a policy framework that focus on Inuit living away from the north. (Inuit Nunangat)

In 2022, TI will celebrate 35 years of serving urban Inuit in Ontario. In 1987, it was estimated that there were roughly 100 Inuit in Ontario. 35 years later, with the anticipation of the release of data from the 2020 survey, it is expected that the data will reveal that the urban Inuit population will approach 50%. The focus of TI is to work directly with Inuit communities in Ottawa and Ontario while advocating on behalf of Inuit living outside of Inuit Nunangat. It is imperative for effective reconciliation that the Liberal government understand the individual identities of Indigenous peoples of Canada and understand the uniqueness of each culture. Additionally, we invite the government to meet and discuss urban Inuit-specific issues. Effective governance and true reconciliation includes understanding the importance of culture and needs such as the portability of Inuit rights and understanding the requirement to offer supports for Inuit living away from the north.

As the population of urban Inuit shifts to the south, we remind the Liberal government that they do so not because they want to but, because they are forced to. Often there is no choice but to move south as the personal and financial cost of staying in the north is unsustainable. The lack of housing, the exorbitant cost of living, lack of employment, unavailability of proper healthcare, pursuit of higher education, employment, and issues surrounding substance use and trauma are just some of the reasons for relocation.

The goal of TI is to make services and programs available to ensure the transition is made easier. TI offers more than twenty front line services and programs that require significant funding to operate. We look forward to continued relationship building, reconciliatory efforts on behalf of the Government of Canada and ultimately, enough supports and services for urban Inuit so that they may be self determined and enjoy the equity of opportunity provided to all Canadians.

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Tungasuvvingat Inuit is the only Inuit-specific service organization of its kind in Canada offering 20+ highly integrated, front-line programs and services to urban Inuit in Ontario. Tungasuvvingat Inuit is a one-stop resource centre to meet the rapidly growing, complex, and evolving needs of Inuit in Ontario and is recognized as a leading advocate for urban Inuit and is prominent within the framework of national Inuit organizations