

April 17, 2020

Jeremiah Groves Executive Director Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Box 1340, Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Glenn Cousins
Manager Partnership & Planning
Kakivak Association, Box 1419, Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

QIA/Kakivak Emergency Relief Program for Inuit Businesses

Good morning Jeremiah & Glenn,

On behalf of the Inuit Business Council we commend QIA and Kakivak in preparing the COVID Relief program for small Inuit Businesses. We are in dire need for support and appreciate the funds committed to help us.

We represent an ad hoc group of Inuit business owners who are privately owned (not a coop or a regional development corporation) with at least 75% Inuit ownership, Inuit managed and controlled.

Regarding your recently announced COVID 19 Emergency Relief Program, we do have some concerns and would request amendments to allow for more businesses to access the relief program without the sharing of confidential information and trade secrets.

Specifically:

A) The requirement to disclose financials be removed- the federal Emergency Bank Account program does not require any disclosure of financials.

Inuit Business Council (Nunavut)

3606 Bill Mackenzie Lane Box 2170, Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0, Canada Tel: 867-222-2055

Email: kirt@inuitbusinesscouncil.ca

- B) The requirement to demonstrate closure or significant loss- this is difficult to show as some of our members have received some work due to COVID 19. However many are unsure how long they will have these contracts and still require immediate assistance.
- C) Our members can provide a plan on where the support would be applied to and offer to provide proof of payments, i.e. Utilities, rental/mortgage payments, insurance & other critical items we need to keep our businesses afloat.
- D) Having requirements of net assets of \$1 million or more should not disqualify Inuit Businesses in accessing funds. Most business owners run multiple businesses and they all require assistance to keep them alive, even thought their personal or business assets may be more than the \$1 Million. We can understand this is meant to limit the assistance to those who really need it. We believe all Inuit business need the COVID relief funds regardless of their net asset value.
- E) Remove the requirement to report any contracts as they are sensitive in nature and some businesses have agreements in place to prohibit sharing of this information.
- F) Get the funds out the door within 5 days of approval.

As you know our Federal government has amended their programs several times to allow more people to access the COVID support relief. We would request QIA/Kakivak do same and amend these requirements to allow more Inuit Businesses to access the needed support.

As well, we also strongly urge QIA & it's agencies to request the hiring of Inuit owned businesses by Inuit Organization and Institutions of Public Governments. This can start with delivering critical services to our people during the COVID 19 crisis.

Lastly, we request representation at the table when discussing

procurement in Nunavut (with financial support) to ensure our voices are heard on policy matters that have a direct financial impact on our businesses.

We appreciate your consideration to our request.

ذذ عن كملا

Kirt Ejesiak Interim Director Inuit Business Council (Nunavut).

Tel: 807-222-2033

Email: kirt@inuitbusinesscouncil.ca