

W11819

E6610-8/D1

Mr. Greg Thompson, M.P.
House of Commons
OTTAWA ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Thank you for your letter of December 7, 1999, requesting information on potential suicides at Davis Inlet.

My Atlantic regional officials are in contact with officials of the Department of Health (DOH) regarding the troubling rumour you refer to in your letter. We are happy to report that the rumoured series of suicides did not occur. We continue to be in contact with the DOH and the Mushuau Innu Band Council of Davis Inlet, which have jointly developed a plan of action to forestall any suicide threats. This plan involves emergency treatment by removing chronic abusers to the "country" together with their families so that whole families will be involved in recovery. It also provides the opportunity for young people to participate in sporting activities, rather than be pulled into gas sniffing as a recreational activity.

My department is working with the Innu and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to expand the involvement of the Innu in education and policing. These are two areas that the Innu feel that they must control in order to provide a positive future for themselves.

I trust that this response addresses your concerns in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Robert D. Nault, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Allan Rock, P.C., Q.C., M.P.

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Clarence MacLennan/IGA-Atl/(902)661-6291
December 17, 1999
Rec'd. DS-CD2/January 11, 2000
R.: Walker/January 12, 2000
Cons.: S. Atkinson/FAX-ATL/January 12, 2000
M.O. Return/January 24, 2000
C. MacLennan/January 31, 2000/nf/W11819
R.: Walker/February 7, 2000
c.c.: RDG-Atlantic