

APPENDIX "ABOR-12"

Secrétaire parlementaire de la
Ministre des Relations extérieures et du
Développement international et
ministre d'État (Troisième âge)



CANADA

Parliamentary Secretary to the
Minister for External Relations and
International Development and
Minister of State (Seniors)

Ottawa, May 25, 1993

Mrs. Rosemarie Kuptana
Inuit Tapirisat of Canada
170 Laurier Avenue West
Suite 510
OTTAWA, ONTARIO K1P 5V5

Dear Mrs. Kuptana:

I would like to respond to the concerns that you conveyed in your remarks to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs on May 11, 1993.

First and foremost, it is important to recognize that in this difficult financial period, all Canadians must share in the tough fiscal measures necessary to improve our country's economic situation.

The federal government is charting the course for sound fiscal management of the taxpayers' dollars. There is consensus among Canadians to tackle the deficit, which if ignored runs the risk of seriously overburdening the future generations of this country.

Looking at the overall picture, however, Aboriginal programs have fared very well over the course of this government's term. Aboriginal programs continue to be one of this government's highest priorities. Between 1984-85 and 1993-94, the total federal expenditures on Aboriginal people have grown from \$2.6 billion to \$5.4 billion representing an average annual growth rate of 11.5 percent. In the same period, total program spending of the entire federal government increased each year by only 4.3 percent. This means that in less than ten years, spending on programs for Aboriginal people has more than doubled. During that same period, overhead costs at DIAND have decreased from 6.0 percent to 3.2 percent of total budgetary resources.