

September 28, 2018

The Honourable Dominic Leblanc
Minister of Intergovernmental and Northern Affairs and Internal Trade
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Sent by email: Dominic.LebLANC@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Leblanc,

Congratulations on your recent appointment as the Minister of Intergovernmental and Northern Affairs and Internal Trade.

Dietitians of Canada (DC) is a [professional association](#) representing over 5,000 members across Canada. Our mission is to lead and support our members to promote health and wellbeing through expertise in food and nutrition. DC members practice in many settings including hospitals, primary care, public health, food industry and retail, and academic and research settings. Registered dietitians have provided evidence-based nutrition recommendations in support of Government of Canada initiatives including the Healthy Eating Strategy for Canada, the Food Policy for Canada and the Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy.

We read with interest in your mandate letter the Government of Canada's commitment to "update and expand the Nutrition North (NNC) program, in consultation with northern communities". DC is particularly concerned about the high prevalence of food insecurity in Canada's northern and remote communities and amongst First Nations, Inuit and Métis people. As an association, we have published our official position and recommendations for addressing household food insecurity [see www.dietitians.ca/foodinsecurity]. In our submission to the NNC consultation (November 2016) we recommended that 1) any changes to NNC must contribute to ongoing efforts to ensure more equitable access to healthy food by households who are experiencing food insecurity, and 2) better access to traditional and country foods is needed, in addition to the current focus of NNC on market foods.

Dietitians living and working in Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut and other northern and remote communities in Canada know well the challenges experienced in these regions accessing healthy food. We offer our assistance to your Ministry as you begin the work to update and expand the NNC program. We welcome the opportunity for a meeting with you in the near future to introduce ourselves and discuss how our organization and members can help you address this urgent element within your mandate.

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Again, our most sincere congratulations on your appointment as Minister of this newly created department which includes addressing Northern Affairs.

Sincerely



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