



NUNATSIAVUT
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Nunatsiavut Allatinga
Nunatsiavut Secretariat

June 7, 2017

Hon. Dwight Ball
Premier
Minister of Intergovernmental and Indigenous Affairs Secretariat and Labrador Affairs
Confederation Building, East Block
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Premier,

The incarceration of Beatrice Hunter, an Inuk grandmother, at Her Majesty's Penitentiary in St. John's is unnecessary and immoral. Ms. Hunter is not a violent offender and is branded a criminal by the justice system simply because she refused to obey an injunction against protesting near the Muskrat Falls site. As an Indigenous person, and as a Canadian citizen, she maintains that she is not breaking any laws, but merely taking a stand against a project she feels will have devastating impacts on her culture, health and way of life.

I understand and appreciate the fact that elected officials, including you, cannot intervene in the judicial system. However, as the Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs, I believe it is your duty to advocate on her behalf and on behalf of all Indigenous people in this province. You may not be able to interfere with the justice system, but you can certainly show some real leadership and voice your concerns with respect to this unjust situation.

We understand Ms. Hunter was sent to St. John's because of an apparent lack of space at the women's facility in Clarenville. Why wasn't a more serious offender moved from Clarenville in order to accommodate Ms. Hunter? Was the decision to move Ms. Hunter to St. John's made by officials within the Department of Justice and Public Safety? If so, were you or Minister Andrew Parsons made aware of that decision?

We are of the view that Ms. Hunter should be moved from HMP to a more appropriate facility. If no such facility is available, then she should be released.

Sincerely,

Johannes Lampe
President