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Carol Gregson,
Department of Health and Social Services
P.O. Box #1000, Station 1000
Iqaluit, NU
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To Carol Gregson,

I am writing a letter of support regarding the recent Hip Hop Program delivered in Pond Inlet, Nunavut. The Hip Hop program, delivered by 'Blue Print for Life' helped to instill self-esteem and confidence in youth, and have ultimately developed foundations for leaders in the community. For many youth, there are limited opportunities to learn about issues that concern their everyday lives, such as bullying, abuse, sexual abuse, family violence, Suicide, healthy living, and methods on how to create healthy anger outlets. 'Blue Print for Life' helped to fill these voids in the community of Pond Inlet, as the participants have already shown significant improvement in their coping abilities, as well as respecting peers, teachers and community members.

The staff at the Nasivvik High School have also noticed that the participants of the Hip Hop program have developed a strong sense of identity through these minds-on, hands-on experiential activities. This program provided a framework to help keep Inuit traditions and culture alive by coinciding with the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* by following and implementing Inuit societal values. The Hip Hop program stressed that learning and serving coincide with one another. They highlighted the importance that each person is of value to the community, and that each person is able to serve the community at large with their individual gifts. The concept of working together for a common purpose is also highly stressed through the program, and it is was implemented physically and emotionally throughout the week.

Pond Inlet will be continuing the Hip Hop program on a weekly basis in order to maintain the interest youth have towards these important values and activities. Students will be working towards shared leadership in maintaining the program, as well as building strong relationships with the parents and community member volunteers. For youth who struggle with social and emotional issues, it is ultimately an opportunity to gain confidence, while being supported by their peers and adults.

As a student support teacher, I would love to see Hip Hop become a more integral part of the community, and to continuously receive support from the Blue Print for Life' program, by having annual visits to the community of Pond Inlet. Blue Print for Life has provided a platform for all youth to experience success, and we hope to continue this valuable program.

Sincerely,

Tessa Lochhead

Cc: Steve Leafloor, Blue Print for Life, Ottawa, Ontario.