THE HONOURABLE DIANE ARCHIE **NO.: 221-19(2)**
MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE **DATE: March 4, 2022**

Advancing Energy Infrastructure Projects

Mr. Speaker, energy is crucial to every-day life in the North. Whether it is turning on the lights, TV, to operating computers or equipment to get work done, residents and businesses in the Northwest Territories depend on access to reliable and affordable electricity. That is why the Government of the Northwest Territories has made it a priority to increase the use of alternative and renewable energy and help stabilize the cost of power.

Mr. Speaker, the GNWT is making progress on key energy infrastructure projects that will assist us in meeting the needs of NWT communities, residents, and businesses. To do this, we must continually invest in the energy infrastructure that we already have to ensure we can continue to provide reliable and affordable electricity.

The overhaul of the Snare and Taltson hydro systems are two such projects. The Northwest Territories Power Corporation, a Crown Corporation of the GNWT, is taking the lead on these two important projects. Components of the Snare and Taltson generating facilities are approaching or have exceeded their expected lifespan.

We need to upgrade these facilities and we need to do it now. This work will ensure continued reliability of these systems and avoid unexpected shutdowns that would result in burning diesel to power communities served by Snare and Taltson instead of using renewable hydroelectricity. The NWT has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the Inuvik Wind Project there are three other energy infrastructure projects the GNWT is advancing to help meet its commitments identified in the 2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework and the 2030 Energy Strategy are the Fort Providence-Kakisa Transmission Line, the Whatì Transmission Line, and the Taltson Hydro Expansion Project.

Both transmission line projects would essentially eliminate the use of diesel for electricity generation in these communities and displace up to 4,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year.

The proposed 170-kilometre Fort Providence-Kakisa Transmission Line project would use surplus hydropower from the Taltson system and $45 million in federal funding, in addition to the $15 million in GNWT funding, which have been secured to build it. We plan to submit a Land Use Permit application for this project with the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board this spring.

As for the Whatì Transmission Line Project, the proposed 60-kilometre transmission line will tap into surplus hydro power from the Snare system in the North Slave. This transmission line would be located almost entirely on Tłı̨chǫ lands and the Tłı̨chǫ Government is supportive of the project. The GNWT is committed to partnering with the Tłı̨chǫ Government on this project and a key next step is to develop a technical study that will identify an acceptable transmission line corridor for the project.

The GNWT also continues to work with Indigenous partners on the Taltson Hydro Expansion project. The proposed project would connect the Taltson system to Yellowknife's Snare and Bluefish hydro systems and set the stage for an energy corridor providing clean energy to new and existing industrial customers north and south of Great Slave Lake.

The GNWT has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Akaitcho Dene First Nation and NWT Métis Nation, and work is progressing on a preliminary business case for the project and transmission route options.

Mr. Speaker, these projects will help meet the energy needs of our territory by using a clean and renewable resources right here in our backyard. As we enter the final two years of the 19th Legislative Assembly, the GNWT is committed to advancing energy infrastructure projects in partnership with communities and Indigenous governments and organizations, and in a way that maximizes benefits for Northerners.

Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker.