

Government of
Northwest Territories

October 3, 2023

LESA SEMMLER
MLA, INUVIK TWIN LAKES**Oral Question 1593-19(2) Housing and Oral Question 1600-19(2) Housing**

This is in response to your September 29, 2023, Oral Questions regarding housing. I did not have the following information at hand during question period.

Housing NWT has received 106 applications for the Homeownership Initiative. Of the 106 applications 37 have reached approval, 32 are being processed and 24 applications were withdrawn by the applicant or are incomplete and 13 applications were declined. Housing NWT has also received 172 applications for the Home Purchase Program. Of the 172 applications 23 have been approved, 19 are being processed and 81 applications were withdrawn by the applicant or incomplete and a total of 49 applications were declined. In market communities such as Inuvik, the Home Purchase Program provides first time home buyers a forgivable loan for a portion of the down payment. In non-market communities the Homeownership Initiative is for public housing clients living in a detached unit that are able to pay operating and maintenance costs and wish to become homeowners the program would provide a forgivable loan to support the transition into homeownership.

Housing NWT currently owns three units in Inuvik, that we plan to sell in the coming months, that will need to be moved off the lots they are currently on. Planning for this work is underway.

Housing NWT has applied a renewed focus to collaborating with Indigenous Governments outside of its regular programming. This collaboration is aimed at addressing mutual housing priorities and advancing Indigenous self-determination and self-government. As part of this ongoing collaboration, agreements have been signed with the Tłı̨chǫ Government, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated, and the Délı̨ne Got'ı̨ne Government.

Whether through a formal agreement or not, Housing NWT is placing a high priority on relationships with each indigenous government. In your region, Housing NWT is working directly with both the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation in the spirit of partnership even though intergovernmental agreements specific to cooperation on housing are not currently in place. Officials are meeting regularly to discuss alignment of their housing programs with those offered by Housing NWT, potential partnerships on other housing projects, and how to support the longer term needs of housing in each region. As these relationships progress, Housing NWT will look to sharing information in partnership with indigenous governments to the residents affected.

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Housing NWT is also pleased to be the co-chair of the NWT Housing Forum which provides a venue to discuss housing priorities with Housing NWT, Indigenous Governments, and other stakeholders which will lead to greater collaboration and improved housing outcomes in NWT communities.



Paulie Chinna
Minister Responsible for
Housing Northwest Territories

- c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Legislative Coordinator, Executive and Indigenous Affairs