



**Government of the Northwest Territories Response to
Motion 19-18(2) Addressing Core Housing Needs in the Northwest Territories**

Motion

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, that the Government of the Northwest Territories make a commitment to reducing the level of core need for all NWT housing by two per cent per year for four years so that we meet the national average;

AND FURTHER, that the Government make investing in social housing a priority;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government increase lobbying efforts to restore CMHC contributions for operations and maintenance, and that the GNWT organize its own spending to take maximum advantage of federal funds available;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government develop a comprehensive and fully-costed strategic plan to achieve these goals and provide the plan to the Standing Committee on Social Development at the earliest opportunity;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government provide a comprehensive response to this motion within 120 days.

GNWT Response

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Corporation is committed to decreasing the level of core housing need in the Northwest Territories to at least the national level.

The GNWT has made affordable, adequate and suitable housing one of its highest priorities, spending approximately 8% of its budget on social and affordable housing. This compares to the national average of 1%.

The Northwest Territories is actively engaging the Federal Government in national housing issues along with the other two territories to present a strong and unified northern voice. As a result of strong lobbying, the Federal Government has agreed to include northern housing as a key component of the National Housing Strategy. The GNWT will continue to work with the Federal Government to ensure that that commitment translates into meaningful housing that supports our residents.

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To support the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation's Strategic Plan renewal, a housing engagement survey will be launched later this month that will give housing stakeholders, Aboriginal governments and organizations, municipalities, tenants and residents the ability to provide their feedback on the current state of housing and the future direction of housing. This survey and its results will initiate a broad evaluation and review of Northwest Territories Housing Corporation's programs to ensure that they meet the needs of residents and that programming supports the goal of decreasing core need. The survey will inform a thorough cost analysis on different types of housing programs, including homeownership vs. public housing options. Once the survey results have been compiled and the cost analysis completed, a report will be tabled early in 2017.