



MR. ROCKY SIMPSON
MLA, HAY RIVER SOUTH

Oral Question 337-19(2) Addressing Homelessness and Housing in Hay River

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on June 12, 2020 regarding addressing Homelessness and Housing in Hay River.

The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWT HC) is presently undertaking several different activities related to housing and homelessness in Hay River. The NWT HC is working with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), the Hay River Metis Government Council and Mr. Harry Satdeo to support their applications to access funding through the National Housing Co-Investment Fund, a key component of the National Housing Strategy. Also, through the National Housing Strategy, the NWT HC will be introducing the Canada Housing Benefit, which will provide direct assistance to renters, this fall.

In addition to the work the NWT HC has been doing in partnership with the Government of Canada, numerous other important initiatives are underway in and around Hay River. Currently, the NWT HC, in conjunction with Hay River Committee for Persons with Disabilities and other local partners, is working towards the development of a shelter to assist individuals that may be experiencing homelessness. It is anticipated that the emergency overnight shelter could be operational by late August – early September. I would be pleased to celebrate the grand opening of this facility with you and the other MLA from Hay River at the appropriate time.

In the past, during the height of the first phase of the COVID pandemic, assistance was provided at the North Country Inn and the Northern Farm Training Institute site. These actions were of critical importance to help these residents mitigate the COVID-19 virus through improved physical distancing.

In the past year, the NWT HC delivered five single family modular housing units, which will be used to replenish the Public Housing stock.

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The NWT HC is also committed to increasing the amount of market housing available in the Northwest Territories. The introduction of 12 RCMP units over the next three years, will help to loosen the tight rental market.

Furthermore, the NWT HC continues to develop its relationship with the Kát'odeeche First Nation (KFN) and transferred six homeownership units over the past year to the KFN. In addition, the NWT HC, working in partnership with the KFN, completed repairs to bring on stream 10 vacant Public Housing units located on the Hay River Reserve. Strengthening housing on the Hay River Reserve helps to ease housing pressures in Hay River as well.

The NWT HC is committed to working in partnership with all stakeholders to ensure positive housing outcomes for the people of Hay River. Hay River is a market community with a long history of entrepreneurship. There are indications that already market forces are preparing to step in to address market shortages. The NWT HC will continue to support Hay River proponents, as well as, to implement actions when extraordinary circumstances require it to do so. Should you wish to discuss these or any other housing-related issues I would be happy to meet at a time of mutual convenience.

Thank you.



Paulie Chinna
Minister Responsible for the
Northwest Territories
Housing Corporation

- c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
President and CEO, Northwest Territories Housing Corporation
Legislative Coordinator, Executive and Indigenous Affairs