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MR. RYLUND JOHNSON
MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
YELLOWKNIFE NORTH

Oral Question 425-19(2): Homelessness and Housing

This letter is in follow up to the oral questions you raised on October 28, 2020 regarding homelessness and housing.

In 2018, the City of Yellowknife conducted a point-in-time survey that indicated that 338 persons in Yellowknife experienced homelessness over the past year. Also, in 2017, the City of Yellowknife developed a homelessness strategy titled Everyone is Home: Yellowknife's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has invested in a number of areas to help alleviate homelessness in Yellowknife. The GNWT, through the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWT HC), approximately 340 Public Housing units, representing an ongoing investment in affordable housing of about seven million a year. Public Housing is an important resource to support individuals and families that may have housing stability. Also, on an ongoing basis, the NWT HC supports three emergency shelter operations in Yellowknife totalling approximately \$1.7 million annually, at the Salvation Army, Yellowknife Women's Society and YWCA. Over the past few years, there has been collaborations with the Yellowknife Women's Society and the and YWCA on a Rapid Rehousing program that helps to support persons experiencing homelessness to access permanent rental housing. From 2018 to 2020, this program has supported nearly 100 Households to access housing. NWT HC supports a Housing First program with funding of \$150,000 a year through the Yellowknife Women's Society, which is currently assisting about 22 individuals. The Homelessness Assistance Fund of \$125,000 annually, also supports the housing stability of residents and helps them to access permanent housing. When shelters have minor capital expenditures, they can access support under the Shelter Enhancement Fund which receives \$100,000 annually. Other GNWT investments include support for the Day Shelter operated by the Northwest Territories Council for Persons with Disabilities and operations of the Hopes Haven run by the Side-Door Youth, Department of Health and Social Services. Additionally, there have been improvements to the Income Assistance Rental Allowance by Education, Culture and Employment, which has been an important resource in helping to house persons experiencing homelessness in the private market.

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Lastly, a GNWT Homelessness Strategy scheduled for release this spring, will help to clarify the roles of government departments, identify the need for partnerships, highlight areas of possible program enhancement and improve outcomes, reporting and performance management.



Paulie Chinna
Minister Responsible for the Northwest
Territories Housing Corporation

c: Mr. Tim Mercer
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. David Hastings
Legislative Coordinator
Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Mr. Tom Williams
President/CEO
Northwest Territories Housing Corporation