



MR. KEVIN O'REILLY
MLA, FRAME LAKE

AUG 15 2019

Oral Question 751-18(3) Former Northern Frontier Visitors Centre

In follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on May 29, 2019, I committed to updating the House on the next steps for the former Northern Frontier Visitors Centre building.

As I stated in my response, the Department of Infrastructure was awaiting the results of a follow-up structural engineering review on the condition of the facility undertaken on May 8, 2019. I have since received the results of the review, and am able to advise the House that, based on the deteriorating condition of the facility, it has been determined that demolition of the building is the best value option for the Government of the Northwest Territories.

As you are aware, there have been concerns with the structural integrity of the building in recent years caused by the jacking of steel piles supporting the southern side of the building. The pile jacking continues to cause significant damage to the structure as well as damage to exterior and interior wall assemblies and windows. The most recent engineering review revealed that ongoing pile jacking in the southern portion of the building over water continues to cause damage to the portion of the building on land, reducing the potential salvageable space to the front third of the building.

Demolition of the damaged portion and salvage of the remaining one third of the building would cost \$2.7M and have very little utility, as compared to the cost of constructing a new, fit for purpose space of equal size for \$2.1M.

Since 2017, the Department has spent \$344,000 on repairs, facility investigation and redevelopment design. Expenses, repairs, monitoring, inspections and utilities for the 2019/20 fiscal year are estimated at \$298,000. There is no expectation that additional ongoing expenditures will halt the continued structural damage and general deterioration of the facility.

.../2

Demolition of the building is estimated to cost \$597,000. A public tender will be issued in the near future, with the plan to conduct the demolition in Fall/Winter 2019/20.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wally Schumann', written in a cursive style.

Wally Schumann
Minister
Infrastructure

c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Legislative Coordinator
Executive and Indigenous Affairs