



February 21, 2022

MLA, LESA SEMMLER
INUVIK TWIN LAKES**Oral Question 828-19(2): Inuvik Warming Shelter Fire**

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on November 30, 2021, regarding the long-term plans for the Inuvik Warming Shelter and homeless residents in Inuvik.

The Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority (BDHSSA) offered their group home at 26 Reliance Street as a new location for the Inuvik Warming Shelter through the winter after a fire destroyed the previous building. The support from the BDHSSA, the Town of Inuvik, the Department of Infrastructure, and Municipal and Community Affairs was essential in having the new location operational as soon as possible.

The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWT HC) engaged with representatives from the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, and the Town of Inuvik on February 17th and received direction to issue a Request for Proposals to secure an organization to take organizations back over from the Government of the Northwest Territories. As you know from our meetings in Inuvik last year, the NWT HC stepped in to assume responsibility of the shelters as a temporary response due to COVID-19 and challenges that existed with the operation of the Warming Shelter following an inability to maintain operations and staffing.

The NWT HC is also working with BDHSSA to attempt to secure the Reliance Street location for a longer period of time. Once we have information on the longer-term location arrangements, I would be happy to provide you with an update.

Thank you.

Paulie Chinna
Minister Responsible for the
Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

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