



May 25, 2022

MS. CAITLIN CLEVELAND  
MLA, KAM LAKE

**Oral Question 933-19(2): Housing Partnerships**

Thank-you for your ongoing interest in the work of Housing Northwest Territories (NWT). I am pleased to provide you with responses to your important questions.

You have asked whether Housing NWT has a policy that allows long-term leases with Indigenous Governments (IGs) or Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Currently, Housing NWT does not have a policy regarding long-term leases with IGs or NGOs. However, Housing NWT continues to work in partnership with IGs and NGOs to address housing needs, through Co-Investment applications and exploring arrangements for how the delivery of programs and services can be shared.

You have also requested information regarding the policy and program review currently underway as part of Housing NWT's Renewal Strategy. I am pleased to report that consistent with Housing NWT's renewal strategy issued in November 2021, work is currently underway to seek input from the Council of Leaders Housing Working group, Local Housing Organizations, and other interested parties on potential changes to Housing NWT's programs and policies. Like the renewal strategy itself, this work will continue to be informed by recommendations from the Standing Committee on Social Development, including Report on Housing Phase 1. The projected date for changes to policy and programs is April 1, 2023, and Housing NWT expects to continue to provide updates and seek the input of Standing Committee over the coming months.

Finally, you have requested more information about partnerships Housing NWT has with Indigenous Governments and NGOs in the life of this Assembly. As you are aware, Housing NWT's new mandate has put an increased focus on collaboration and reconciliation efforts and this is already being reflected in our approach with both types of organizations. While Housing NWT's partnerships are many and can be both formal and informal, I will list a few specific examples here:

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#### Indigenous Governments and Organizations

- Contributions to housing initiatives by the K'asho Got'ine Housing Society, Salt River First Nation, Dene Nation and others from the Community Housing Support Initiative;
- Increasing engagement with IGs at the community and regional level on plans for housing delivery and associated contracting opportunities;
- Plans to formalize Housing NWT's collaborative relationship with several IGs through memoranda of understanding or similar means over the coming months, and;
- Engagement of the Council of Leaders Housing Working Group in the review of Housing NWT's policies and programs.

#### Non-Governmental Organizations

- Multi-year partnership with Habitat for Humanity to build homes in the Northwest Territories, now considering communities outside of Yellowknife;
- Partner in "At Home in the North", an interagency housing-focused consortium hosted by the Memorial University of Newfoundland;
- Bilateral funding relationships with NGOs including TeePee Housing (Inuvik), North Slave Housing Corporation, and Avens Society (Yellowknife).

I trust that this information is helpful, but should you have any questions or require further information on any of the above, I would be happy to arrange a briefing with my staff. Thanks again for your efforts to address the acute housing need in the Northwest Territories.

Sincerely,



Paulie Chinna  
Minister  
Housing Northwest Territories

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