



Government of
Northwest Territories
June 08, 2023

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MLA, TU NEDHÉ-WIILIDEH

Oral Question 1321-19(2) Housing Crisis in The Northwest Territories

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on February 8, 2023, regarding the use of federal investment dollars to support safe and affordable housing in the Northwest Territories (NWT).

I can confirm that Housing NWT was allocated \$60 million in Federal Budget 2022, and as per the funding arrangements with Canada, has invested this into key public housing and operations priorities in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. The focus of these investments includes new and replacement public housing units, repairs to existing public housing units, making housing stock more energy efficient, and continued investment in people through training and apprenticeship.

The initial (2022-2023) \$30 million funding allocation from CIRNAC under Budget 2022 enabled Housing NWT to expand the Territory's public housing stock and to support several priority housing initiatives. Specifically, these investments include:

- The delivery of 20 new public housing units for rural and remote communities throughout the NWT, of which ten are specifically designed for seniors and persons with limited mobility (this was in support of the mandate objective of increasing public housing stock by 100 units during the 19th Assembly);
- 25 major modernization and improvement (repair) projects to sustain and preserve existing public housing stock;
- Alternative energy investments involving the installation of medium-scale biomass district heating systems for a 20-unit public housing senior's complex;
- Priority minor repair and maintenance projects for numerous public houses operating across the Territory, including the replacement of aging fuel tanks;
- Increased investment in the Community Housing Support Initiative Program to support community-based housing projects, including the development of Community Housing Plans, and incremental unit maintenance funding for third-party affordable housing providers; and
- Additional investments made in training initiatives for Local Housing organizations, including maintenance and financial services and supporting apprenticeship opportunities.

CIRNAC's second \$30 million funding allocation for 2023-2024 under Budget 2022 will again support a number of priority housing investments. Specifically, the investments included:

- The replacement of 17 public housing units that reached the end of their design/operating service life;

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- 91 major modernization and improvement (repair) projects to sustain and preserve existing public housing stock;
- Alternative energy investments involving the installation of medium-scale biomass district heating systems for a 13-unit public housing seniors' complex;
- Priority minor repair and maintenance projects for numerous public housing units operating across the Territory, including the replacement of aging fuel tanks;
- Increased investment in the Community Housing Support Initiative Program to support community-based housing projects, including the development of Community Housing Plans, funding community organizations for housing projects (i.e., private home repairs) and incremental unit maintenance funding for third-party affordable housing providers; and
- Additional investments made in training initiatives for Local Housing organizations, including maintenance and financial services and supporting apprenticeship opportunities.

Indigenous governments were provided access, through separate funding programs, totaling over \$270 million dollars, through bilateral funding agreements with Canada, for terms between four and seven years. This is appreciating that the \$270 million is a conservative estimate, respecting that the Government of the Northwest Territories is not necessarily privy to specific details of bilateral agreements.

In addition to that, a number of Indigenous governments received support through application-based programs such as the National Co-investment Fund, and the Rapid Housing Program for specific housing projects (Indigenous Government share of those programs currently sits at over \$35 million).

This unprecedented level of investment by Canada in Housing in the North is very much needed and welcomed. We will continue our efforts to sustain investment to address this important priority for residents of the NWT.



Caroline Cochrane
Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs

- c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Legislative Coordinator, Executive and Indigenous Affairs