



APR - 3 2017

MR. DANIEL MCNEELY  
MLA, SAHTU

**Oral Question: 481-18(2): Environmental Liability of Riverbank Erosion**

This letter is in follow-up to questions asked during the February 1, 2017 sitting of the Legislative Assembly regarding a liability zone in Fort Good Hope for the residents that were found to be affected in the October 2006 document *The Review of Riverbank Stability in Fort Good Hope* by EBA Engineering.

During oral questions, I committed to having Regional staff from the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) visit the K'asho Got'ine Charter Community Council to discuss the concerns identified with residents.

As I stated during oral questions, the authority to provide taxation relief lies with the Department of Finance and is beyond the jurisdiction of MACA. While MACA provides property assessments, the mill rates for Fort Good Hope are established by the Minister of Finance. In addition, there are issues with these specific properties with regards to land tenure that impact taxation.

MACA engages community governments in the development of community disaster preparedness, mitigation, response, and resolution. The Department encourages all communities in the Northwest Territories to participate in the National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP), a federally funded initiative that will provide up to 75% of the resources required to address the kinds of risks currently experienced in the liability zone in Fort Good Hope. MACA Officials are available to meet with the K'asho Got'ine Charter Community Council to inform them of the NDMP and provide support to apply for funding to develop a mitigation plan for the community.

Thank you for and raising these important issues.

Caroline Cochrane  
Minister of Municipal and  
Community Affairs

c. Mr. Tim Mercer  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. David Hastings  
Legislative Coordinator  
Department of Executive