



JAN 16 2019

MR. SHANE THOMPSON
MLA, NAHENDEH

**Oral Questions 384-18(3), 387-18(3), 389-18(3), and 432-18(3):
Lands Rights for Traditional Cabins**

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Questions you raised on October 15 and 23, 2018 regarding lands rights for traditional cabins and rights-based cabins.

In the Northwest Territories (NWT), there are currently over 700 structures that do not have tenure on public land. On September 05, 2018, I sent letters to Indigenous governments to initiate discussions regarding the Department of Lands' efforts to address unauthorized occupancy of public land across the NWT.

Currently, the Department does not have an established method to differentiate between unauthorized occupancies and rights-based structures on public land. Engaging with Indigenous governments on respectful and effective ways to identify rights-based cabins and related management practices will enable the department to better manage unauthorized occupancy of public land.

On October 02, 2018, the Department of Lands began initial discussions with Indigenous governments. This work is linked to several priorities under the Department of Lands' Recreational Leasing Management Framework. The Department met with representatives of the Dehcho First Nations in Fort Simpson on October 22, 2018, and with representatives from Acho Dene Koe First Nation in Yellowknife on October 25, 2018.

On November 06, 2018, letters were sent to Indigenous governments informing them of funding available to support documenting potential rights-based cabins on public land and further discussions on related management practices. Indigenous governments interested in additional information regarding the funding opportunity were encouraged to contact Gina Ridgely, Manager, Sustainability at (867) 767-9183 ext. 24072.

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The Government of the Northwest Territories recognizes and respects Aboriginal and treaty rights. Every person has a right to use public land in accordance with legislation and policies, and where applicable, land, resources and self-government agreements. Moving forward, the Department will continue to engage Indigenous governments across the NWT. The specific steps of the engagement may vary from region to region. Broader public communications will occur after this important work with Indigenous governments is further advanced.

Thank you.



Louis Sebert
Minister of Lands

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