



March 11, 2021

MR. JACKIE JACOBSON
MLA, NUNAKPUT

**Oral Questions 503-19(2) Housing Shortage
in Nunakput and 574-19(2) Emergency Shelters**

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on February 5, 2021 regarding the housing shortage in Nunakput and on February 23, 2021 regarding emergency shelters.

The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWT HC) currently operates 53 Public Housing units in Paulatuk. All of those units are currently occupied. Additionally, three Public Housing units are currently under repair with work scheduled to be completed in May 2021. Two further units have been determined to be beyond economic repair and are not suitable to be retrofitted as a shelter. The NWT HC is currently constructing a four-plex in Paulatuk. Once this four-plex is completed, there is the possibility of repurposing an existing unit as a shelter, to be operated by a third party.

In Ulukhaktok there are currently 90 Public Housing units. The NWT HC had previously donated a three-bedroom, fully functional unit to the Hamlet of Ulukhaktok for use as a shelter.

In Tuktoyaktuk there are currently 168 Public Housing units. A three-bedroom unit was previously donated to the Hamlet and it currently remains vacant. There is also a two-bedroom unit that was previously used for the former "Hard to House" program which was returned to the NWT HC and is now vacant.

In Sachs Harbour there are currently 20 Public Housing units. There are two vacant units, but they are beyond economic repair. There are no NWT HC units in the community that would be suitable for a shelter.

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It is important to note that emergency shelter costs, such as utilities and staffing would be significant. In remote communities, homelessness issues may be more effectively resolved through housing-focused solutions, such as the NWT HC's Homelessness Assistance Fund or Northern Pathways to Housing program. I would be pleased to discuss either of these options with yourself and/or community leadership

The NWT HC is also very close to completing the Paulatuk community housing plan. Once complete, this plan will help the community to map out its future housing aspirations and ensure that local priorities are at the forefront. The plan will also be a living document and able to be updated depending on the future focus of housing development in the community.



Paulie Chinna
Minister Responsible for the
Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

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