



May 22, 2020

MR. RYLUND JOHNSON
MLA, YELLOWKNIFE NORTH

Oral Question 161-19(2): Building Standards Act

This letter is in follow up to the Member's Statement you made on February 28, 2020 and the Oral Question you raised on March 5, 2020, regarding building standards in the Northwest Territories (NWT).

In 2020-21, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) plans to re-engage residents, elected officials and stakeholders on how other jurisdictions in Canada manage Building Codes and Standards. This engagement will result in a discussion paper.

This discussion paper will identify issues raised through the NWT Associations of Communities, the NWT Construction Association, the NWT Architect's Association, the NWT Communities and Consulting Engineers of the NWT with a view to determining what approach is most suitable for the NWT in terms of legislation and/or harmonization of activities with other related territorial and municipal regulatory functions.

The results of this engagement process will inform MACA on what the remaining work on the *Fire Prevention Act* should contain as well as identify whether a new legislative initiative, for example a *Building Standards Act*, is required. MACA, and/or the appropriate Government of the Northwest Territories Department would then seek to advance the appropriate legislative proposal reflecting this engagement.

Thank you for your interest on this important topic.

Caroline Cochrane
Minister
Municipal and Community Affairs

c. See Distribution list

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