



June 30, 2021

MS. LESA SEMMLER
MLA, INUVIK TWIN LAKES

Oral Question 707-19(2): Closure of the Inuvik Homeless Shelter

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on May 27, 2021 regarding the closure of the Inuvik Emergency Warming Centre (IEWC).

As was noted in our conversations, the Board for the IEWC had planned on a summer closure. There are a number of supports currently available in Inuvik for individuals experiencing homelessness, including programs and services offered by the Inuvik Homeless Shelter, Gwich'in Tribal Council on-the-land programming, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation on-the-land programming, community wellness workers, Ingamo Friendship Centre, and others.

Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWT HC) staff continue to engage with the Board of Directors of the IEWC to support the development and sustainability of this vital resource. NWT HC staff are working with the IEWC to develop their policies, procedures, service standards, and are assisting with staff recruitment. The NWT HC is currently working with leadership groups in Inuvik to develop a co-management plan for the IEWC and is planning face to face meetings with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Gwich'in Tribal Council in mid-July to talk about improving the board operations and support to the shelter.

In addition to developing policies, procedures and service standards to help with the operations, the NWT HC Occupational Health and Safety staff will provide safety training for IEWC staff prior to the shelter re-opening.

It is hoped with these efforts that there will be improved support for the board and staff to support the ongoing operation of this much needed resource.

Thank you.

Paulie Chinna
Minister Responsible for the
Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

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