



March 23, 2022

MR. RONALD BONNETROUGE  
MLA, DEH CHO

**Oral Question 960-19(2): Three-year Energy Plan**

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Questions you raised on March 1, 2022, regarding contracting the supply of biomass heat to Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWT HC) owned housing assets and the savings realized for this type of approach currently being used in Aklavik.

The NWT HC recognizes the need for partners to advance our energy efficiency objectives. For biomass heating, although we have been able to install and operate our own biomass heating systems in a number of communities, our preferred approach has been to contract these services from willing and able contractors or development corporations at an affordable cost.

Currently, we own two public housing 9-plexes connected to third-party biomass heating systems. One (1) is located in Behchokò and the other is in Aklavik. The Behchokò system is operated by the Government of the Northwest Territories connecting multiple buildings, whereas the smaller system in Aklavik is owned and operated by the Aklavik Indian Band. Typically, the larger systems result in more economies and larger cost savings for the end-user. The smaller Aklavik system, which is being supported by the local economy, is currently realizing an annual cost saving in the range of about three (3) to four (4) percent or \$1,000.

In addition to these district heating systems, the Housing Corporation has also invested in three (3) standalone biomass heating plants that provide heat to seniors' buildings in Dettah, Ndilo, and Fort Resolution. Utilizing funding from our federal government partners, the NWT HC is also installing a biomass district heating system in Yellowknife that will provide heat to 53 public housing units. Lastly, I am pleased to advise that the NWT HC is currently applying for funding through the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) to conduct a feasibility study for the implementation of additional biomass district heating systems in other Northwest Territories communities. The Corporation expects to hear a decision on the approval of this application by this spring.

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In closing, I do want to let you know that the NWT HC will be issuing an RFP the week of March 21, 2022 to finalize an energy plan for the NWT Housing Corporation. We will be sharing the scope of work for this document with Standing Committee when the RFP is issued, and look forward to finding an opportunity for the successful proponent to engage with individuals such as yourself who have a strong interest in seeing the NWT HC advance its work in energy efficiencies, and in particular with biomass systems.

Thank you.



Paulie Chinna  
Minister Responsible for the  
Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

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