



March 11, 2022

MLA, RON BONNETROUGE  
DEH CHO

**Oral Question 930-19(2): Housing**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to questions you recently raised concerning energy efficiency, which is very important to the Housing Corporation.

Regarding the Housing Corporation's Energy Action Plan (2022-2025), our staff are continuing their work on this important document with the goal of releasing it this Spring. The work identified in the Action Plan will align with the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) 2030 Energy Strategy in the areas of reducing greenhouse gas emission, increasing the use of biomass heating, and increasing the energy efficiency of our owned assets. We look forward to sharing this document as soon as it is ready. The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWT HC) has worked closely with the Energy Division of the Department of Infrastructure in developing the scope of work for the Energy Plan and feel comfortable that it will align with the objectives of the GNWT and give the NWT HC some concrete actions to add on what we've already been doing to align with the GNWT energy goals.

In respect to the proposed hydro transmission line to Fort Providence and other communities, the Housing Corporation understands the proposed expansion of the Taltson Hydroelectric Station would add 60 MW to the current 18 MW being produced. This expansion could remove 240,000 tonnes of GHG emissions from the Northwest Territories annually. In anticipation of this future project, the Housing Corporation is participating in an Electrification Study being undertaken by Pembina Institute on behalf of the Taltson Hydroelectricity Expansion Project partnership. This study is evaluating the potential for electric space heating by utilizing power from the current system and expansion of Taltson. The study is focusing on six communities: Enterprise, Fort Providence, Fort Resolution, Fort Smith, Hay River, and Kakisa. This report is expected to be released in the Spring of 2022 and will be a good reference for the Housing Corporation when designing and building future housing in these communities.

Concerning energy efficiency, the Housing Corporation has been designing and constructing homes to a high energy efficient standard since the 1980's under the R2000 program and we continue to meet or exceed national energy performance standards. The 90 new public housing units currently being delivered over the next three years are designed to achieve up to an additional 25% energy efficiency above the National Model Energy Code. Other units have been designed to be solar ready, with structural allowance for future solar panels. The Corporation believes that incorporating energy efficient components and systems in homes is key to lower operation costs over the service life of the asset. To help us keep up to date in the areas of energy efficiency, the Corporation sits on several working groups and committees whose goal is to improve energy efficiency, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and increase the use of alternative energy sources. We also are committed to take actions required to help the GNWT meet its goals and objectives in their 2030 Energy Strategy.

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The NWT HC recognizes that these energy goals cannot be achieved without partnerships. As example, there are currently two biomass systems where the NWT HC purchases heat from a third party. One in Behchokò, through a connection to a GNWT owned biomass plant, and one in Aklavik, through connection to a biomass plant owned and operated by the Aklavik Indian Band. In addition to these arrangements, the Housing Corporation has also invested in three (3) standalone biomass plants that provide heat to senior's buildings in Dettah, N'dilo, and Fort Resolution. The NWT HC is also utilizing federal funding to complete a major biomass district heating system in Yellowknife that will provide heat to 53 public housing units. And lastly, I am pleased to advise you that the NWT HC is applying to CANNOR for additional federal funding to undertake a feasibility study to expand the Corporation's biomass district heating systems to other communities.

I appreciate you bringing these matters to my attention, and I look forward to updating you further on this work in the coming months.

Thank you.



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Minister Responsible for the  
Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

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Legislative Coordinator, Executive and Indigenous Affairs  
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