

NWT GOVERNMENT LIBRARY



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December 26, 1992

Mr. Fred Koe
Member of Legislative Assembly
Inuvik, Northwest Territories
XOE OTO

Dear Mr. Koe:

I am writing to express my extreme displeasure with the recent G.N.W.T. decision to arbitrarily increase rent in government accomodation.

I accepted my position with the G.N.W.T. pursuant to specific conditions outlined at a meeting with staff of the department of Personnel. I accepted my position and the responsibilities in good faith and carried out those same responsibilities to the upmost of my ability. I assumed my employers agreement was offered in good faith as well. I left a position with ten years seniority in Manitoba based on the agreement made with my employer. I had planned on being a long term employee with the G.N.W.T. as well, but it now appears that expectation is in jeopardy.

Mr. Koe, I am the sole wage earner in my accomodation and I just cannot afford to pay more of my salary to rent. As a resident of the town of Inuvik, I appeal to your judgement and sense of fairness to intervene on my behalf and others in the same predicament, and appeal successfully to overturn this decision.

I await your reply.


Michael Conway
Box 2833
Inuvik, NT
XOE OTO



Box 1355
Inuvik, NWT
X0E 0T0

Jan. 23/93

Hon. Fred Koe
M.L.A.
P.O. Box 1320
C/O Legislative Assembly
Yellowknife, NWT
X1A 2L9

Dear Mr. Koe:

I am writing to voice my deep concern over the recent release of the "Long Term Housing Strategy". I feel betrayed by this Government.

With a wage freeze for this year and a 1.8% next year, far below inflation, the income tax raise, this increase in housing and utility costs is far beyond outrageous.

This strategy does not allow purchasing a private dwelling unless a large amount of money is available; which is just not the case for us and now, it would be impossible to save any down payment.

It seems that once again the single income family is penalized. Not every home has a dual income. My wife is a stay-at-home mother because we believe we are doing the right thing for this generation and the next.

With this extra financial stress I will be forced to reconsider my future tenure with the G.N.W.T. I do not feel it is morally right for this Government to press its employees to financial failure.

I urge you to reconsider the "Long Term Housing Strategy" and its future implications for the many committed employees seriously affected by it.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future and trust that it will be both a reasonable and fair response.

Sincerely,



Stephen R. Lawson

Box 1816
Inuvik, NT
X0E 0T0

February 5, 1993

Fred Koe
MLA, Inuvik
Legislative Assembly
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9

Dear Mr. Koe:

We are writing to you because we are very concerned about the effect the Long Term Housing Strategy will have on us, personally, and on our community.

We are currently living in GNWT staff housing and are supported by a single income supplemented by UIC payments which will end in April. Also in April, management of our apartment (Lakeview Apartments) will be transferred to a private landlord. We have been informed that the new landlord intends to increase rent for our unit to \$990 (an increase of 31% from the current rent of \$755) and charge for electricity. We are concerned that we will be forced to negotiate a lease with the private landlord if we are not allocated alternate GNWT accommodations before April 1. Renting from a private landlord would cause us extra financial hardship. For example, our rent increase will not be limited to 25%, the utilities cost currently included in rent payments will not be decreased once we assume responsibility for electricity payments, and we will not have the opportunity to purchase our furniture. We considerate it unreasonable and unfair that GNWT employees whose housing will be transferred to a private landlord will not receive the advantages that GNWT employees whose housing will be transferred to the Housing Corporation will receive. Mr. Koe, will you assist the GNWT employees currently renting in Lakeview Apartments to obtain fair and equitable housing?

You must be well aware that necessities other than shelter, such as food, transportation, etc. are very expensive in such an isolated community. We do not qualify for any of the homeownership incentives explained to us by Housing Corporation staff. Our potential income (once we are both employed) is too high for the Lease to Purchase program, but still not high enough to afford to save for a downpayment for a home. We had planned to settle in Inuvik, but now find that we simply can't afford to live here.

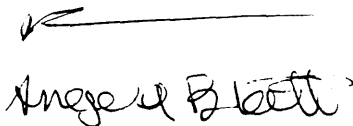
We are also concerned that the Long Term Housing Strategy, if implemented without revisions as to extent and timing, will result

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in the mass exodus of skilled public servants from the North to areas where the cost of living is lower. Since these public servants provide essential services, there will be a corresponding decrease in the quality of these services. This would result in a drastic lowering of the standard of living for people living in the North. Statistics Canada claims that social and economic conditions have improved significantly over the past 20 years for aboriginal people living in the North, although their standard of living still remains below the national average (Highlights of Aboriginal Conditions 1981 - 2001, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1989). Further improvements of social and economic conditions are dependent upon the continued availability of skilled public servants to provide essential services such as health care, education, child care, administrative services, and environmental services. In the longterm, the key to developing an indigenous public service is continued improvement of the standard of living by providing quality public services. The Long Term Housing Strategy must be revised in order to ensure that qualified public servants serve the North.

For the above reasons, we do not believe that the Housing Strategy or the homeownership incentives announced by the Housing Corporation will improve the standard of living for the majority of people living in the NWT. Our household consists of a native and a woman - groups which traditionally earn lower incomes. It is households such as ours which will suffer the most if the Housing Strategy is implemented without revision. Will you support postponing implementation of the Long Term Housing Strategy until further review of its consequences is completed?

Sincerely,



Bill Thrasher

Angela Blatt

cc: Nellie Cournoyea
Steven Kakwi