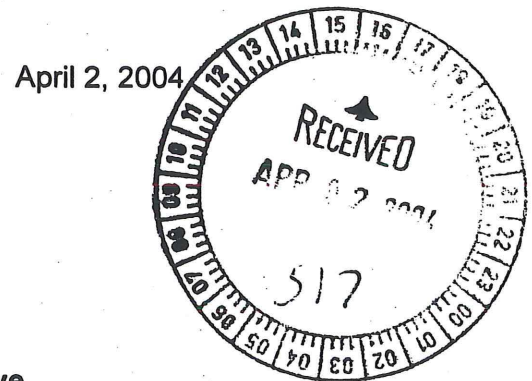
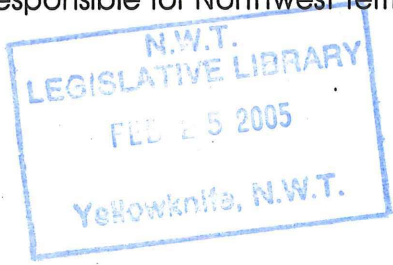




Northwest Territories Minister Responsible for Northwest Territories Housing Corporation



ALL MEMBERS
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT

2004 Supply of Mobile Homes, Market Housing Initiative

I am writing in response to questions raised in the house on March 29 and 30 concerning the extension of the tender for the Market Housing Initiative. Members had asked Cabinet whether or not it would extend the closing date of the tender.

Within the Instructions to Bidders of the tender document an addendum, (or change), may only be issued 5 days prior to the tender closing. Best tendering practices recommend a set time period for the issuance of an addendum to ensure fairness to all bidders. Given that the tender is closing today, an extension at this point would not allow us to meet this requirement.

The Instructions to Bidders also addresses the canceling of the tender. The tender may be cancelled at any time. Again, best tendering practices recommend if the tender is to be cancelled and re-issued, it is to be re-issued with a significant change to the project.

NTCL material final acceptance dates do not change. Barges go to each community once per month with the exception of Lutsel K'e where there is one sailing only. Any delay in awarding the tender may result in missing the first sailing date, which would jeopardize the availability date of the units.

For these reasons, Cabinet has decided to proceed with the original closing date of the tender. We do, however, recognize that the issues raised by members are important and accordingly, we are prepared to work more closely with northern businesses on future initiatives and reconsider our approach for next year.

Both the Instructions to Bidders of the tender document and the NTCL 2004 Sailing Schedule have been attached for your reference.

Sincerely,

Michael McLeod

Attachments.