



June 05, 2020

MS. FREDA MARTSELOS
MLA, THEBACHA

ORAL QUESTION 249-19(2): TERRITORIAL FIRE CENTRE

This letter is in follow up to the oral question that you raised on June 02, 2020 regarding the Territorial Fire Centre.

Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) is responsible for delivery of the NWT's wildfire protection programs, and ensuring timely and effective management of the risks posed by wildfire. ENR's Fire Operations are based out of the Territorial Fire Centre in Fort Smith, and their current facilities came over to the GNWT when the responsibility for wildfire management was devolved in 1987.

The Territorial Fire Centre includes a warehouse facility owned by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), and a space in a separate office building which is owned by the Government of Canada and rented by the GNWT.

The warehouse facility is part of the GNWT Department of Infrastructure's land and assets, and was built in the 1950s. This facility has not had any significant upgrades since that time other than routine maintenance. The federal building has not been subject to any significant upgrades in over a decade but has been maintained routinely.

ENR has been planning for a new Territorial Fire Centre for some time to support our continued vital role in wildfire management. A new building has been identified as part of the Capital Planning process. Planning studies have been completed for a phased development approach. Land near the airport has been reserved, and architectural drawings for Phase 1 (warehouse, telecommunications, and repair shop) have been completed. Phase 2 will include office spaces.

ENR has been investigating additional funding options for the new centre, including exploration of federal funding opportunities. While funding has not yet been identified, ENR will continue to seek out possible funding opportunities to allow this project to move forward.

.../2

We recognize that the GNWT has multiple infrastructure priorities, and I will work with this Legislative Assembly on this and other important initiatives.



Shane Thompson
Minister
Environment and Natural Resources

- c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Legislative Coordinator
Deputy Minister, Environment and Natural Resources
A/Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations, Environment and Natural Resources