



June 10, 2020

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON
MLA, HAY RIVER SOUTH

Oral Question 52-19(2): Grants and Contributions to Commercial Fishers

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on February 11, 2020, regarding the difference in residency periods between the Support for Entrepreneurs and Economic Development policy (six months) and the Commercial Renewable Resource Policy (three years).

In my response to your question, I committed to providing you with an explanation. The simple answer is that the Commercial Renewable Resources Policy was a policy of the Department of Resources, Wildlife, and Economic Development, the predecessor to the Departments of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) and Environment and Natural Resources. An unsigned draft of that policy was put onto the ITI website by mistake, but the program under which ITI now funds commercial fishers is the Commercial Fisheries Industry Support Program. Thank you for bringing this to our attention, it has now been corrected.

With regards to how residency requirements work in ITI contribution programs, the six-month period is what generally applies unless otherwise specified in a program. For example, the Mining Incentive Program and the Film Rebate Program are intended to incentivize investment from out of the territory. As proof of residency, the ITI requires the applicant to produce copies of their Northwest Territories (NWT) driver's license and health care card, which is placed on file. We also require the applicant to sign that they meet all the requirements including six-month residency. One of the intentions is to allow for new resident to invest in business projects in the NWT and not face onerous delays.

Thank you.

Katrina Nokleby, P.Eng.
Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment

c. Mr. Tim Mercer
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. David Hastings
Legislative Coordinator
Executive and Indigenous Affairs