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MR. LESA SEMMLER
MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
INUVIK TWIN LAKES

Oral Question 416-19(2): Homelessness in Inuvik

This letter is in follow up to the oral questions you raised on October 28, 2020 regarding homelessness in Inuvik.

I committed to having staff work with the staff and board of the Inuvik Warming Shelter in order to ensure the shelter is able to continue to serve the community. The existing building for the shelter was insufficient to support all persons requiring support due to the need for appropriate physical distancing. Working with the Department of Infrastructure, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWT HC) temporarily procured a Government of the Northwest Territories building, which was appropriate to support 20 persons. The NWT HC also continues to work with shelter staff and board as there has been significant turnover in personnel.

Lastly, the NWT HC in conjunction with community housing stakeholders will be initiating a community housing plan for Inuvik. This plan will also delve into short-term, mid-term and long-term solutions to address homelessness in the community.

Paulie Chinna
Minister Responsible for the Northwest
Territories Housing Corporation

c: Mr. Tim Mercer
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. David Hastings
Legislative Coordinator
Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Mr. Tom Williams
President/CEO
Northwest Territories Housing Corporation