

**Frieda Martselos**

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**From:** Shane Thompson  
**Sent:** December 9, 2019 2:49 PM  
**To:** Frieda Martselos  
**Cc:** Geoff Ray; Kim Hjelmeland; Shane Thompson  
**Subject:** Land Leasing Pricing

Dear MLA Martselos:

**Land Leasing Pricing**

Thank you for meeting with me (and my Assistant Deputy Minister of Operations, Conrad Baetz) to discuss pricing of leases for camps and cabins in your area.

Since 2014, the Government of the Northwest Territory (GNWT) has assumed the responsibility to ensure that management of public land in the Northwest Territories (NWT) is done responsibly. Public land in the NWT is a valuable asset and pricing of leases for its exclusive use must strike a balance. While it may seem that the increases to the lease fees are significant when viewed alongside the fees set over the past 20 years, the minimums that were introduced in 2018 (and that are being implemented over the next few years), reflect balance and consistency across the NWT.

In managing public land and structures built on it, the GNWT must also make every effort to ensure we respect the rights of Indigenous people pursuing traditional activities, and as a part of that effort, we have been working with local Indigenous organizations across the NWT to understand where their member's camps are located. The Department is further proposing to work with Indigenous Governments and Organizations (IGOs) across the NWT to develop a mutual understanding of when tenure (a lease agreement) is required, and when it may not be required, or at what cost. We do not have any conclusive approaches on how best to manage potential rights based camps and cabins at this time yet. I am confident that through the work we have begun with IGOs, we will be successful in accomplishing an approach that will be acceptable to families who carry out traditional activities at their camps on public land in all parts of the NWT.

Your desire for land pricing to recognize long term residents who have contributed to the NWT in many valuable ways, is a tough one. Our discussion was helpful as I believe I understand your concerns and will take your concerns and suggestions into consideration as we look at ways to improve how we establish pricing in the coming years.

Lands is committed to continued improvement of our policies and best management practices while managing public land. This includes improvement to how we engage, communicate and provide opportunities for input into changes we foresee in the future.

One of the main focuses for the Department of Lands during the life of the 19<sup>th</sup> Assembly will be to do the critical work on Regulations to support the coming into force of the *Public Land Act*. Through the work on these Regulations many of the items you raised will be further considered

Thank you again for raising your concerns to me. I appreciate your ongoing support for the Department of Lands' work.

Shane Thompson  
Minister of Lands