



FEB 25 2020

Ms. Rebecca Alty  
Mayor, City of Yellowknife  
4807 - 52 Street  
P.O. BOX 580  
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N4

Dear Mayor Alty:

**Funding for the Purchase of a Multi-Use  
Building to House 42 Homeless Individuals**

Thank you for your letter of February 20, 2020 asking for clarification on the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT's) support for the purchase and sale of the Arnica Inn to the Yellowknife Women's Society (YWS) for the intent of offering stable housing to individuals currently experiencing homelessness.

I want to clarify any misunderstanding around the GNWT's support for this project and any project requesting funding under the National Housing Co-Investment Fund (NHCIF). The GNWT is supportive of all and any applications that are submitted to the federal government's NHCIF. The GNWT, however, will not confirm any amount of participation or contribution into a project until the federal government has done due diligence on all other components that it requires. The GNWT has made it clear to the federal government that given the scarcity and availability of GNWT funding, that a funding decision will be made after all other requirements are met.

It is regrettable that the federal government was not able to adequately communicate the GNWT's perspective. The federal government's characterization of the GNWT's position is entirely incorrect. I have asked officials to have a discussion with federal representatives, so that they are clear on the GNWT's position.

Housing and homelessness are areas that the GNWT have identified as among its highest mandate priorities. Addressing problems in these areas in Yellowknife requires different and varied responses from those in smaller communities. Recently, there have been significant investments in Yellowknife to improve housing and homelessness including:

- \$1.4 million towards the conversion of the Yellowknife Women's Society shelter to become more housing-focused by creating 24 single suites.

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- \$400,000 increase to the Emergency Shelter Program to improve the capacity of emergency shelters for a total of \$2.1 million annually.
- \$400,000 for Rapid Rehousing to help homeless and unstably-housed families and individuals obtain or retain rental housing.
- \$300,000 for a Transitional Rent Supplement Program to assist renters with unaffordable rents.
- \$150,000 ongoing investment in a Yellowknife Housing-First project.

Additionally, the GNWT is working with the federal government to create a new rental benefit, the Canada Housing Benefit that would have a total of \$19.2 million in program funding, cost-shared between the GNWT and the federal government up to 2027-28.

In relation to the Arnica project, bottom-line, the federal government has determined that the project is not viable. That has nothing to do with support or lack of support from the GNWT.

The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is available to assist the YWS to address any areas that the Federal Government has identified as needing clarification or improvement of in their application. Should those areas be addressed in the federal government's approval criteria, the Government of the Northwest Territories will be in a position to provide consideration on an appropriate level of partnership.

I look forward to meeting with you in the future to plan for actions that will improve housing in Yellowknife.

Sincerely,



Paulie Chinna  
Minister responsible for the  
Northwest Territories  
Housing Corporation

c. Honourable Caroline Cochrane  
Premier, Northwest Territories

Honourable Caroline Wawzonek  
Minister, Department of Finance

Mr. Tom R. Williams  
President and CEO, Northwest Territories Housing Corporation