



MS. KATRINA NOKLEBY
MLA, GREAT SLAVE

March 15, 2022

Oral Question 993-19(2): Canadian Red Cross

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Questions you raised on March 7, 2022, regarding Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) engagement with the Canadian Red Cross (CRC) during the spring 2021 flood events.

The GNWT did not draw on the resources of the CRC during the spring 2021 flooding events. The primary reason is that the GNWT had made its own arrangements to support communities and residents impacted by the flooding. In addition, the CRC does not have a physical presence in the Northwest Territories (NWT) and there were no facilities available in the most heavily impacted communities to physically host CRC staffing.

Our understanding is that the CRC and the Village of Fort Simpson have entered into an agreement for CRC services. As outlined in the *Emergency Management Act*, a local authority may enter into agreements and make payments for the provision of services in the development or implementation of local emergency plans or programs.

The NWT EMO, through the Territorial Planning Committee, will be reviewing the lessons learned from the 2021 flood event to assess the need for services including what the CRC can provide going forward. Once that work is completed, a formal agreement with the CRC may be pursued. In the meantime, if the need is urgent, CRC services can be accessed through a just-in-time agreement arrangement.

Thank you for your interest on this important topic.

Shane Thompson
Minister
Municipal and Community Affairs

- c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Legislative Coordinator, Executive and Indigenous Affairs