



October 10, 2024

GEORGE NERYSOO
MLA, MACKENZIE DELTA

**Oral Question 158-20(1) Collaboration with
Indigenous Governments on Home Renovations**

This is in response to your May 23, 2024, Oral Questions regarding Collaboration with Indigenous Governments on Home Renovations

Thank you for your questions on the status of vacant units in Aklavik, Fort McPherson, and Tsiigehtchic, and Housing Northwest Territories' (Housing NWT) collaboration with Indigenous Governments on renovation projects.

In each community, Housing NWT must determine whether or not the units identified as vacant are worthwhile to repair and continue to utilize for public housing needs, or whether the units could/should be disposed of (either to Indigenous Governments or individuals, or whether their condition requires the unit to be demolished). Inspections are completed on the units to support Housing NWT decisions.

Currently in Aklavik there is a total of 13 vacant units. Of those 13 vacant units four units are ready for occupancy and nine require repairs. Some of the unit repairs are going to be quite extensive including major structural repairs.

In Fort McPherson, there is a total of ten vacant units. Two of these units are currently being renovated while eight units still require repairs. Tsiigehtchic currently does not have any vacant units.

As noted above, if the decision is to repair the units for continued use as public housing, Housing NWT has a variety of tools to hire contractors to complete repairs including negotiated contracts. If the units are not going to be continued to be used for public housing, Housing NWT does have a disposal process, and one of the first steps in that process is to engage with the Indigenous Government to determine if they would like to assume ownership of the unit to complete repairs and manage themselves.

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Housing NWT does have a Collaboration Agreement with the Gwitch'in Tribal Council and we would be pleased to put this item on our next meeting agenda to determine the best manner in which to engage and make decisions on current vacant units in the community.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lucy Kuptana', written in a cursive style.

Lucy Kuptana
Minister Responsible for
Housing Northwest Territories

- c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Director, Legislative Affairs and House Planning