

ORAL QUESTION—JULIE GREEN, MLA YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

QUESTION 679-18(2): INUVIALUIT REGIONAL HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

March 3, 2017

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a week ago, the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation signed an agreement with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation leadership about social housing. I am not questioning the need for the housing dollars, but I have some questions around the details of this arrangement.

I am aware that about a third of the new money will replace units destroyed by fire. Will the rest of the money add to the housing stock in the ISR so that there are more units in total than there are now? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The partnership that we have developed with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation is a partnership in that the Housing Corporation provides the land and will take over the ownership of the units for rental purposes, but the IRC is responsible for building the units and determining where they want to go. The current funding, the \$5 million, will be used to replace a six-plex in Inuvik and a four-plex in Tuktoyaktuk that were burned from fire. The \$10 million that is coming next, we have not negotiated on. Again, it is not the Housing Corporation's prerogative to be able to tell the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation what to do. It will be up to them to decide. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: Thank you to the Minister. The Minister and the Housing Corporation have been very diligent about not allowing for an increase in the number of units within the Housing Corporation stock because of the increased operations and maintenance costs that come with extra units, so will the Minister accept extra units if that is what the IRC decides to do with its money?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The Member is correct in that, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, we do get funded for 2,400 public housing units. The CMHC funding is going to dissolve in 2038. We are trying to develop a plan to deal with the lack of funding that we will have for operating and maintenance for 2,400 units. So, at this point, we are not looking at increasing our public housing stock, but we are looking at and we're hoping that, with the program renewal, we will be able transfer some of the current units into more home ownership. That way we can actually increase our public housing availability at the same time. No, this will not be all on the shoulders of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation.

MS. GREEN: This money provides for IRC beneficiaries, but I am wondering how the Housing Corporation is planning to meet the needs of the other residents of the Beaufort Delta who are waiting for housing, that is, other beneficiaries and other non-

Indigenous people.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The deal with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation to provide them \$15 million was not a Government of the Northwest Territories decision. It was a federal decision. We had no input into that. The Government of the Northwest Territories was not consulted in that process, so we can't determine what the federal government did with that or where they are going to move in the future.

However, what I can say is that, for the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, we take care of the needs of all residents within the Northwest Territories. So just because the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation struck a special deal with the federal government, that does not mean that we neglected all of the other communities. We are still providing housing support in all communities, to meet all people's needs.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister for that response. My final question is about quality control. Since one entity is doing the building and another is providing for the O and M, what kind of quality control will be exercised over this project and by whom? Thank you.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I want to stress that the agreement for the \$15 million is not in consultation with the Government of the Northwest Territories. It was done directly with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation. They could determine what they wanted to do with the whole funding. We have developed a partnership. Within that partnership, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation has agreed to make sure that the buildings are done to code. We have agreement that we will be confirming that, as well. The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation does have the capacity. This corporation does have economic development within their organization, and they have been doing buildings. This is not their first project, so I am assuming that their quality of work will remain as it always has been.