

**Mid-term Review Committee of the 18th Legislative Assembly  
Yellowknife South MLA Julie Green to Minister Caroline Cochrane  
October 4, 2017**

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, in her candidacy speech for Cabinet, the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs said, "My vision for the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly is to address many of the issues long talked about but not acted on." One of those issues is to how to close the multi-million dollar funding shortfall for communities. In her mandate letter, the Premier directed the Minister to develop a strategy to close the gap in funding levels to meet municipal core needs. My question is: what has the Minister accomplished in this, and will the Minister be able to complete this strategy during the remainder of our term? Mahsi.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Lafferty):** Masi. Minister Cochrane.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The funding gap for community governments is actually a very serious issue that we do need to address. Yes, we are working on a strategy, and we will have that completed within the next year actually. Not by the end of my term, before the end of my term.

We have gotten some money from the territorial government for operating the maintenance. The gap is actually more, right at this time, in the capital monies. Thank you to the federal government who have left the building, that they actually, when they give infrastructure money, we are prioritizing the capital needs of communities based on the funding gap, so it is not the ideal solution at this point. We will have a strategy coming up, but in reality, we do have fiscal restraints, or not restraints, fiscal realities that impact all of our departments, but it is not something that I have taken lightly, or that I have forgotten. It is a priority of mine to address. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. As we hear often in this House, the core housing need is 20 per cent, or almost 3,000 households in the NWT, and these problems encompass affordability, suitability, and adequacy. The Minister has committed to reduce the number of households in core need by 250 per year for the next three years, and I am wondering how that is going to work. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Lafferty):** Minister Cochrane.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Actually, at the beginning of the next session, I will be tabling a document on how we are going to address the core need within the territories which is one of my requirements, so that will be coming forward. There are a variety of needs. There is not one brush that paints all. So if it is suitability, or affordability, or adequacy, then we need to look at different programs for them. If it is a matter of getting them into a bigger unit; if it is a matter of actually helping to pay some of their expenses; or if it is a matter of fixing up their homes so that it is safe, we are looking at a variety of programs. As I mentioned earlier, the biggest need at this point, we have done amazing in the smaller communities, brought down our core need based on the 2014 survey compared to the 2009 survey. It actually did not do well for the municipality of Yellowknife, so we will actually be looking at implementing a subsidized rent program that will be coming out again at the very beginning of the next session. I look forward to actually presenting on the new initiatives and the new policies that we have worked on; and through the next two years, there are a lot more policy changes that we still need to do. Thank you, Mr. Chair.