

ORAL QUESTION—JULIE GREEN, MLA YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

QUESTION 26/34/36-18(3): MODULAR PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS

October 18, 2017

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. In the summer of 2016, her department awarded a contract of Concept Energy Services in Hay River to construct 19 modular duplexes to communities throughout the NWT. How many of those duplexes have been completed and how many have been shipped to their destinations? Mahsi.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, what we have is eight of the 19 buildings are now partially completed. We have three that are in Ulukhaktok, one in Inuvik destined for Fort McPherson, and four are now under construction in Concept's Hay River facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: Unfortunately, the contract is not publicly available, or at least I can't find it. Can the Minister tell me whether the completion rate, that is an eight out of 19, and the partial completion meet the terms of the contract with Concept Energy Services?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: No, the original contract completion dates were between March and June 2017. There were some delays that have been happening, so at this point they have not met the completion date.

MS. GREEN: What action is the Minister taking to either revoke the contract with Concept Energy Services or work with Concept Energy Services to have the terms and conditions met?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: At this point, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is exploring all of the options that are available to us to ensure that all of the houses actually meet their needs within the communities. Our number one foot priority is to ensure that homes are in communities. That is why some of the units actually were pulled into Ulukhaktok and like I say, partially completed as the Honourable Member pointed out, because we were conscious that they needed to meet the barge. So we are working diligently. Our number one focus is to make sure that we have houses in communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would be interested to know whether the Minister can make the contract available so that we on this side can see what the terms and conditions are. In addition, I wonder if she could tell us whether these units were paid for in advance or whether they are going to be paid for when they are complete. What is the situation with the money? Thank you.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: I believe those were two questions, but I will answer

them. I do apologize. I had said that the contracts would be available on the procurement website and for some reason, I have learned that there is some issue with not getting them on there. If the Member would like, I will be able to provide her with a manual copy of the contract. I will commit to doing that.

As for the money, some money was provided up front to help. It is not a normal practice, but it was provided up front to support the manufacturing strategy and recognizing that this is a new strategy that we are trying. To date, though, there is no upfront money. The money has been recouped for the work done, so there is no money that is with Concept at this point that is owing to the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. We will not make any further payments until the products are complete or near completion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**QUESTION 34-18(3):
MODULAR PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS**

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have few more questions for the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation about the modular duplexes. Can she say who is going to build the remainder of this order that Concept Energy Services started? Who is going to fill the rest of this order and over what period of time? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: There are a couple questions there, Minister. Minister of NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to start by actually addressing the question. I am actually glad the Honourable Member asked this question. Earlier with her questions, I had promised to give her a contract. I have since learned that, actually, I may not be able to give her the full contract because of the Privacy Act. I will be able to provide her with the information that is on the normal procurement site, but not the whole contract. I just want to apologize for any misunderstanding that I may have given before.

In answer to the contract that is being done now, I can state that the tender to complete the units in Ulukhaktok is out now. If they are not out now, they will be within the next week or two. Then the remaining units, we are still looking at our options to determine what we will do with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: I appreciate the clarification and I look forward to the more general information. Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, there are 11 units outstanding, and those units are not going to be built by Concept Energy Services. What are the options for completing these remaining units?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: There are many options that we can do at this point. We are looking at them. We can either work with supporting Concept Energy to do them. There are a variety of options. We can put them out to public tender. We can look at negotiated contracts within communities. There is a whole gamut of different options that we can consider. Again, my priority is getting these homes into communities, and

we will be looking at the ways we can expedite that in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

MS. GREEN: Can the Minister say when a decision will be made on one of these options?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Yes. We are currently in the process of reviewing all of the options at this point. I know that, within the next two weeks, we will have defined which way or path we are going forward.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there was also a contract with Energy Wall in Yellowknife to do one of the standalone two-bedroom units. Can the Minister say whether this unit has been completed? Thank you.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: I am really glad that question came up because it is important to note that, although we have had some glitches with our manufacturing strategy for modular units, Energy Wall in Yellowknife did complete a successful unit and has received another contract, actually. We are looking forward to working with all northern business in the provision of northern homes for northern people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION 36-18(3):
MODULAR PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a few more questions for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation about the modular homes. I have a few money questions. My first question is: how much money was advanced to Concept Energy Services and why was that money advanced? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since I do not know that exact figure at this time, I will have to take the question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The question has been taken as notice. Oral questions. Item 8, written questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.