

# Housing contract falls apart

Hay River company blows deadline for GNWT contract to build modular homes

by **Tim Edwards**  
Northern News Services  
**NWT**

Ulukhaktok Mayor Laverna Klengenber says people in the community are "making due" with the housing they've got, but the community could use more social housing and some upgrades to the old homes that are currently there.

Meanwhile, three NWT Housing Corporation modular homes — which she believes are not for social housing but for market sale, as some of the corp.'s properties are — sit unfinished in the community as winter begins to set in.

On Oct. 19, in the Legislative Assembly, Yellowknife Centre MLA Julie Green questioned Minister Caroline Cochrane about the contract behind those units. Hay River's Concept Energy Services was awarded part of a major housing contract last year, to build 19 two-bedroom duplexes by March. Now there are three contract opportunities posted to finish the units in Ulukhaktok, which were supposed to be part of Concept's project.

When asked what's next,

Cochrane said there are a variety of options.

"We can either work with supporting Concept Energy to do them," said Cochrane, who is responsible for the NWT Housing Corp. "We can put them out to public tender. We can look at negotiated contracts within communities."

Cochrane said a decision would be made within two weeks. *News/North* did not

**"There are quite a few people on the waiting list."**

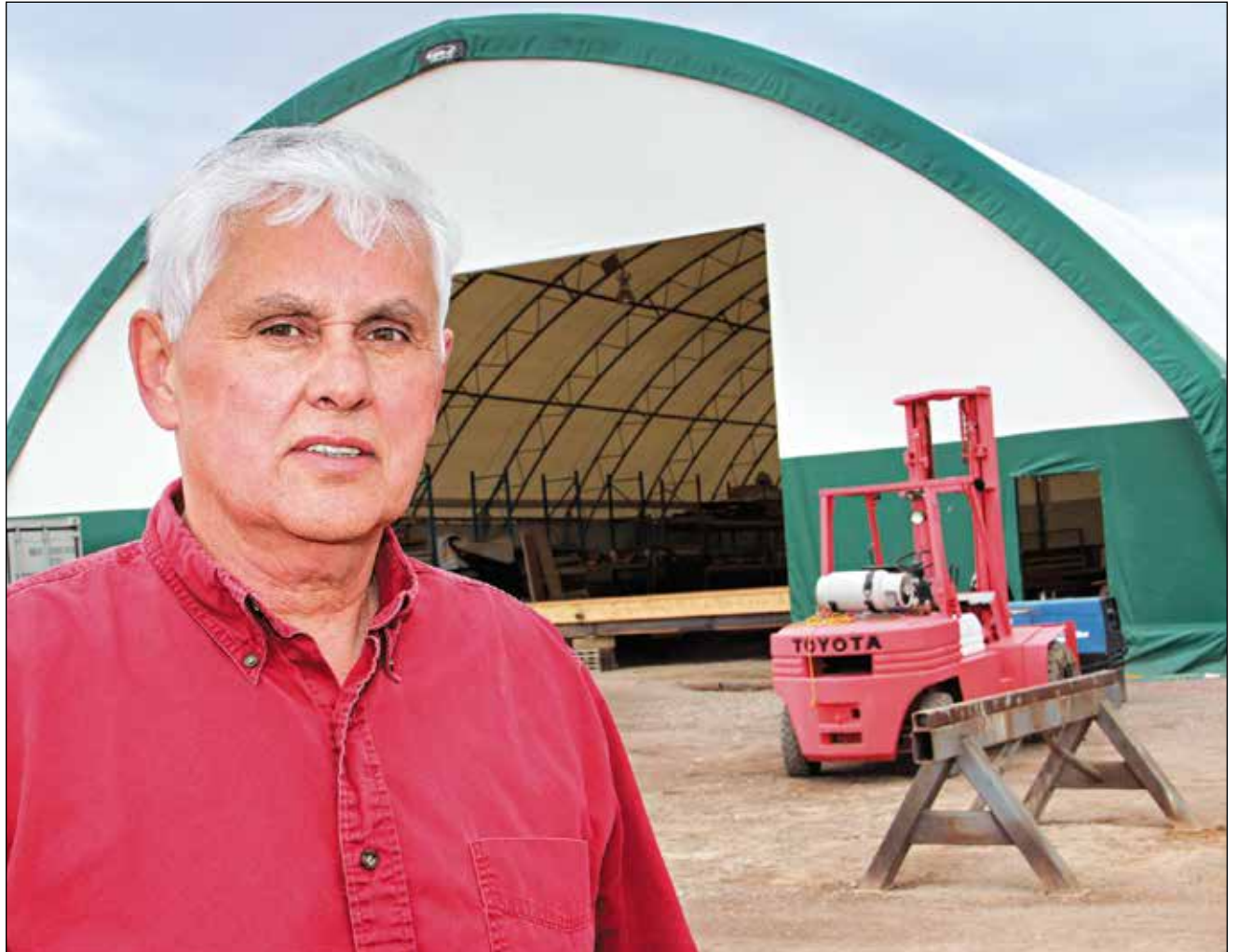
Laverna Klengenber

hear back from the Housing Corp. by press time on whether, and what, progress had been made on that decision.

While Cochrane didn't have the numbers behind the contract on hand

when questioned by Green, the website [opennwt.ca](http://opennwt.ca) posts and archives information on government tenders in the territory. It shows a \$9,181,430 contract that closed May 20 for the construction of duplex and single units in multiple communities.

Other details in this contract matched what was discussed in the legislative assembly: that a smaller portion of the overall contract was awarded to Yellowknife's Energy Wall and Building



Paul Bickford/NNSL photo

**Pierre (Rocky) Simpson, the owner and president of Concept Energy Services Ltd., stands in front of a fabric building where 19 residential modular duplexes will be built for the GNWT. Ulukhaktok Mayor Laverna Klengenber says modular housing sit unfinished in her community.**

Products Ltd.

As well, according to the site, Concept Energy did not obtain any other GNWT home construction contracts last year.

Pierre (Rocky) Simpson, president of Concept Energy, did not respond to requests for comment.

Back in Ulukhaktok, Klengenber said the failure to finish these units on time wasn't a major blow to the community, but that it would be a bigger priority to get some of the old, aging units upgraded.

"The majority of these housing units have been built

in the '60s and '70s so they're quite old," said Klengenber. "There's a lot of shifting in the houses, in the units, so there's a lot of draft. I believe a lot of them have mould issues. But, under those conditions, they are well-kept considering the age of the units."

As well, a few more units

would be put to use.

"I believe there are quite a few people on the waiting list for a housing unit — public housing," said Klengenber. "Mostly single people or small families."

But, for the time being, these people have places to stay in Ulukhaktok.

## Horoscopes

November 12 - 18, 2017

**ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20**

An emotional encounter that you have with someone close to you gives you clarity and peace of mind, Aries. This is the catalyst for making personal changes that improve your life.

**TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21**

Taurus, it's good to want to help others. But do not let someone take advantage of your generosity. Be as accommodating as you can and then communicate your feelings.

**GEMINI - May 22/June 21**

Gemini, spend time fixing up your home this week or doing things that are geared around family. This is a great time for parents and children or even extended family to get together.

**CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22**

Hoping and wishing for something without taking any action will not lead to satisfaction, Cancer. Figure out what you hope to achieve and then work toward that goal.

**LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23**

Optimism abounds this week, Leo. You are ready to tackle any project big or small. Even though you may feel like you can take on the world, enlist a few helpers.

**VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22**

Safeguard your personal information, Virgo, because not everyone you meet is on the up and up. Be cautious without being suspicious and things will turn out fine.

**LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23**

Libra, you can make a big difference by contributing time, money or both. Don't hesitate to pitch in. Celebrate all that you have accomplished with someone you love.

**SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22**

Scorpio, this week you can dedicate your time to something that will educate you further on an area of concentration you want to pursue. It may be a charitable cause.

**SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21**

Your great imagination often causes you to be the life of any gathering, Sagittarius. This week you may have to let others' creativity take center stage.

**CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20**

Changes, particularly early in the week, will do you good, Capricorn. Rearrange the furniture or even try out a new hairstyle for some new perspective.

**AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18**

Aquarius, take some time to do something with your partner, who can probably use your help right now. This can change your life emotionally and financially.

**PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20**

Pisces, remain tight-lipped about a positive development. You won't have to stay silent forever, but wait a little longer to share the news.

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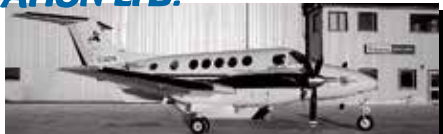


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