

JULIE GREEN—MLA YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE
Long Term Care Facility
Committee of the Whole—2019-2020 Capital Budget Review
Dept. of Health and Social Services—October 26, 2018

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I see that the long-term care facility upgrade is again in this capital budget. It was carried over, I believe, from last year. Why was that carry-over necessary? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Green. I believe it's in the next page, but I'll get Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, there's sort of three different long-term care projects here. Can the Member maybe highlight which one, or is it all three that she's asking about?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: I'm talking about page 34. Are we looking at page 34?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Chair, you may be the best judge of that, but I was under the impression that we were on administrative and support services, not community health programs. Your observation will be appreciated here...

... **MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the long-term care facility upgrade, last item, page 34, I think we have seen this before. It is a carry-over from the previous year. Can the Minister say why this program wasn't completed in the last year? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It was never intended to be done in this fiscal year. We are intending to start, break ground, and start the construction. We have been working with Avens. A number of months ago, in a meeting between staff and the department, the COO at the time asked us to stand down and put the project on hold temporarily while they worked out some technical issues and some program issues that they wanted to deal with.

We have been encouraging them to move. We are ready to go. There are some questions that we need them to answer. We want to keep working with them. I understand there have been some changes at Avens. Hopefully, that will kick things off and we can start. We will have to carry some of this over due to the Avens request for some delay. We intend fully to get this done and break ground if not later this year, early, early next fiscal year.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Okay. I didn't find that answer very illuminating. My understanding is that this upgrade was in the last capital budget. It is now in the capital budget that begins in

April of next year. When is this project going to happen? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is a multi-year project that goes over many fiscal years. We had money last year to begin the process and do some planning and get some work done so that we would be prepared to break ground as early as possible. Like I said, the organization has asked us to stand down temporarily, which we have on their request. We are prepared to move forward when they are ready. Hopefully, we will break ground sooner than later, but it will likely be breaking ground probably in the next fiscal year due to these delays. We still have some planning work that we have to do with them. We are ready when they are. We are ready to work with them.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There is no need to repeat all of the same answer a second time. How many years is this multi-year project? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The intention was a two-year project, starting in the previous fiscal year, \$3.9 million previous year, \$2.4 million this year. Due to the delays from the organization, we may end up having a carry-over there. We are trying really hard not to, but it may happen.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I am trying to make sense of items 2 and 3, the Stanton Legacy Building, base building, modifications to make it ready. Then the next part is design and renovations. What is the difference between those two projects? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, this first one, the base building adjustment, is actually very technical. It is very accounting-related. I am going to go to Mr. Heath to describe these two items.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Ms. Green. [Microphone turned off] I was having a sidebar conversation there. Mr. Heath.

MR. HEATH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The base building modifications represent third-party investment in that building and is centred around the core mechanical electrical systems that prepare the building to receive tenant improvements. Again, it is to third-party investment. Essentially, it is not real cash, but it is a third-party's investment in that.

The Stanton Legacy Building renovations are the actual tenant improvements. That is when we install the long-term care beds, the medical gasses, the systems and infrastructure that we need to have the tenants that are in that building operate it. There are two separate pieces. The first one is generally an accounting exercise that

represents somebody else's investment in that asset. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you. How much confidence does the Minister have that this base building work will be completed in the 2019-2020 fiscal year? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The property manager and the individuals who have done the construction on Stanton have been very tight on their timelines. They have met their targets. We are looking to get the building when we said. We have every confidence that they are going to be able to do the leasehold improvements to the old facility that will get us in there as scheduled.

Once it is done, we still have to do a full stand-up as we do with all facilities. The day we take possession is not the day that we move in there. There will some work that still needs to be done to stand up the building. We are confident at this point that we should be getting into Stanton after the renovations, probably in 2021-2022.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Okay. I need to make sure that we are all talking about the same thing. It was my understanding that the base building analysis is happening on the old building and the renovations are happening on the old building. My question was about the confidence that the work will be completed on the old building in the 2019-2020 fiscal year and that renovations will then begin on schedule in the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Is that correct? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: That is correct.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This side of the House proposed that there be a safe-house pilot project take place in the last fiscal year or in the current fiscal year, I think it was. We proposed it again for next year. Can the Minister give us an update on the status of that request? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe the Minister of Finance did send a letter to committee responding to that request. I don't have the letter in front of me. I kind of blanked on what was in there. Sorry. I am not feeling 100 per cent today.