

JULIE GREEN—MLA YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE
Debt Repayment/Homelessness Shelters/Emergency Shelters
Committee of the Whole—2019-2020 Operating Budget Review
NWT Housing Corporation—March 7, 2019

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On page 378, there is a report that debt repayment is forecasted in the next year to be \$1,004,000, and I am wondering how much debt is going to still be outstanding after that amount is collected, debt to the Housing Corporation. Thank you.

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

MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, this is the cash portion of the debt payments that the Housing Corporation makes on an annual basis to CMHC. This is associated with the debt that came back in 1997 under the social housing agreement, when we basically acquired the social housing units. Projected at the end of March 2020, we are expecting to have approximately \$33.7 million of remaining debt. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am not very well informed in this area, so what I understand it, though, to say is that this debt has been paid for the last 22 years and that there are many years to go before it comes down to zero. Is that correct? Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, that is correct. As Mr. Martin had referred to, we still have \$33.7 million, and we will continue to make those payments since we took over the social housing. Thank you.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you. Further on this page, I see the spending on finance and administration has gone up by about \$650,000, and I am wondering why. Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There has been incremental funding for the emergency shelters program transferred through from the Department of ECE, specifically \$397,000 in that area. There has also been an increase in the TSC chargebacks budget post establishment of the IT shared services, and that specific dollar amount was \$234,000. Thank you.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you for that. I understand that recently there was an agreement to transfer homelessness from ECE to the Housing Corporation. Is that reflected in these mains? Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, that's the emergency shelters program. Our thinking around that was to have all programs under one department so it will be easier for applications to be processed with our partnerships. Thank you.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, and so there is an increase in spending on the homelessness shelters forecasted for the next fiscal year. Can you tell me what that money is going to pay for? Thank you.

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

MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. About \$397,000 was allocated to support the shelters with additional staffing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you. So this is not a pilot program; this is ongoing staffing costs that we will see in every budget going forward. Is that correct? Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, that is correct, and we can also look at providing more detail for the Member in terms of how those dollars are going to be spent throughout the territory in our funded shelters. Thank you.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Sure, I will take the Minister up on that. If he would like to give an overview of how that money is distributed and what those positions are about, it would be useful. Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: We will commit to that.