

JULIE GREEN—MLA YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE
AVENS Funding
Committee of the Whole—2020-2021 Operating Budget Review
Dept. of Finance & HSS — June 9, 2020

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. As is the case with the Mangilaluk School, the laundry and kitchen facilities upgrade for AVENS has been on this list for as long as I've been here. Can the Minister tell us what the delay is in doing this upgrade and when this upgrade will actually happen? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Member. Minister of Finance.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Minister of Health and Social Services can provide more detail.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Minister of Finance. Minister of Health and Social Services.

HON. DIANE THOM: Thank you, Madam Chair. The project was put on hold by AVENS, as they were pursuing other facility development options on the new AVENS campus that would incorporate all the planned kitchen and laundry facilities, as well.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Minister of Health and Social Services. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Thank you. So this project continues to be on hold, and there is no end date for it to be spent. Is that correct? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Member. Minister of Health and Social Services.

HON. DIANE THOM: Thank you, Madam Chair. The AVENS has indicated that they are expecting to have a decision on the project by early this summer. So we are waiting to hear about a decision from them, but the plan is to sit back down, and we sat back down a couple of months ago, and we went through their overall plan, including the Minister of Housing and Finance. So that is still on the table. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Minister of Health and Social Services. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Thank you for that response. This question is for the Minister of Finance. Is there a limit to the number of years that funds can be carried over before they are added back into the general pot and the projects have to be defined and justified starting over again? I'm just wondering about that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Member. Minister of Finance.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Madam Chair. There is no specific limit in terms of years. Carry-overs have to meet the requirements of the Financial Administration Act and the Financial Administration Manual, which requires that either the project is under way in some fashion -- I'm actually drawing a blank as to the criteria,

but there has to be some action being taken. Money doesn't just get to sit around when there is not something to show for it. So, in that sense, although it can continue to carry over, it wouldn't be carrying over in the absence of some steps being taken or some movements being made. Again, either the project is under way, or there are contracts already in place to get it under way. One of those two things needs to be happening in order for it to automatically be eligible for a carry-over. Thank you, Madam Chair.