

**ORAL QUESTION—KEVIN O'REILLY, MLA FRAME LAKE**

**QUESTION 629-18(2): LOCAL IMPROVEMENT CHARGES HOUSING ENERGY RETROFITS**

**February 22, 2017**

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, monsieur le President. My questions are for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. In my Member's statement, I made reference to the Pembina Institute Report, "Loans for Heat: Towards a Yellowknife Energy Savings Program." Is the Minister aware of this report and are her staff using it as a basis for developing changes to the City, Towns and Villages Act to allow for the use of local improvement charges for energy efficiency? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot say exactly if the department has a copy of the report that the honourable Member has spoken of. I would be more than eager to obtain a copy, if he would like to provide it to us. We are looking at the implications of changing the act to accommodate this, so any information that he would be able to provide we would be more than happy to receive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. O'REILLY:** I would be delighted to help the Minister with this. I will be tabling the report later today. It includes all kinds of details of how the LIC enabling laws are dealt with in other jurisdictions. Would the Minister commit then to have her staff review this report and use that as a basis for developing amendments to the *City, Towns and Villages Act* for this purpose?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** We are looking for cross-jurisdictional, about how other jurisdictions are implementing this request. I will commit to taking the document and to reading it. I cannot commit to it being a sole document that we use in determination. We work closely with all of the communities and the NWT Association of Communities, so it is important that we do not confine ourselves to one document when we are looking at developing partnerships.

**MR. O'REILLY:** I am not suggesting that the Minister only look at this document, but it is a fantastic review of how it is done in other jurisdictions. It even has an appendix with the proposed wording that could be used to adopt right into our *City, Towns and Villages Act*. So I guess what I am suggesting here is there is an opportunity fast track this amendment, a very simple one, so can the Minister, though, tell us when we would be seeing a legislative proposal to make this happen?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** I cannot actually give you a date on when the legislative proposal will be submitted. We are in the process of looking cross-jurisdictional to see what other provinces and territories do. After that, we are also engaging with the six municipal governments that changes to this act will impact. So we are looking to meet with them all coming up here in the spring, and once that is done we will be looking at their feedback and then developing a legislative proposal and taking it

to the Legislative Initiative Committee for their review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Frame Lake.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Minister for that. There is a NWTAC motion of record supporting this sort of work, but I earlier spoke about extending the benefits of energy cost savings to people in low-income brackets. So would the Minister commit to confer with her colleague, the Housing Corporation Minister, to look at providing rebates, some form of assistance, or incentives for retrofits for low-income families to help offset local improvement charges, create local employment, reduce their costs of living, and help with climate change? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can commit to talking to my colleague, the Minister responsible for Housing, to look at suggestions, specifically for low-income families. Actually, we are doing some work around energy conservation and just green energy in principal. We are rolling out a LED Lighting Program this year that we will be putting in LED lights within every home. We are looking at redesigning homes so, that instead of having single units that are not so energy efficient but also very expensive, in order to address both energy efficiency and cost of living, we are looking more shared boiler systems within residential units. So we are looking at a whole variety of ways that we can help low-income families both to address the cost of living and to become more green in our provision of housing.