

**Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
Capital Budget—NWT Housing Corporation
Funding for Housing Units**

September 27, 2017

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that. It's a simple question, I guess, for the Minister: when she goes to Ottawa, do we have a proposal, a plan, for housing that she can give to Ministers to say this is what we need and we've got a plan to fill it?

This sort of harkens back to the motion that was passed in this House calling on the Corporation to develop a plan to reduce our core housing needs by 2 per cent per year. What can the Minister give to a federal minister to show what our needs are, what our plan is to deal with housing, other than a long list of sorry statistics? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Minister.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, we have a partnership with all three territories, so we have provided to the federal Minister a tri-territorial proposal. We have been successful in actually advocating for the needs of the Northwest Territories and the other two territories, which is shown by the commitment for \$300 million over 10 years that is already designated for the territories.

There have been other pots that are going to be designated just for the Northwest Territories, so we have secured quite a bit, and we've also written a letter. The National Housing Strategy, we've met with the federal Ministers at the FPT meeting, which is federal/provincial/territorial meetings. We've met with them; they gave us a deadline to get in letters to them specifically for our provinces and territories. We have submitted a letter on behalf of the Northwest Territories on its own, aside from the tri-territorial that we are working on. We are working hard to try to make sure that the National Housing Strategy addresses the needs of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. This isn't a mid-term review.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: It isn't?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): I said it isn't the mid-term review. You don't get to talk about your qualifications. Thank you, Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the efforts of the Minister, and as I recall, of the \$300 million that was given to the three territories, our portion was rather miniscule; all we got was \$30 million.

If the Minister could share a portion of the tri-territorial submission, the letter that was given, that would help convince me that we've actually got a plan or something to give to the federal Ministers to show what we need in terms of social infrastructure investment. We seem to have all of these projects and proposals off the shelf that we can give for roads, whether it's Slave Geological Province, whether it's the Mackenzie Valley Highway, connecting the hydro grid to Saskatchewan, but we don't seem to have anything for housing.

If you can share those submissions with the Regular MLAs, and where's the plan for housing that we can give to the federal government? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Minister

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Within the last letter that we wrote specific for the Northwest Territories, we did identify that we would need around \$100 million to be comparable to the money that was received by the Government of Nunavut. I will take the request back to Cabinet and after Cabinet's decision I will make a decision on whether we can provide the letters and the territorial working relationship with Standing Committee. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I know I'm pushing the envelope here. Lastly, then, the motion that was passed in the House to develop basically an action plan to reduce our housing core needs, when are we going to see that action plan? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Minister

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We are just doing the final touches, putting the pretty pictures on, and it will be tabled during this session. Thank you, Mr. Chair.