

**KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE**  
**MONEY AVAILABLE FOR NEW HOUSING**  
**Committee of the Whole—2019-2020 Capital Budget Review**  
**NWT Housing Corporation—October 26, 2018**

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I am the Sasquatch, and I know where the Minister can find \$8 million for public housing retrofits. All he has to do is work with his colleague, the Minister of Infrastructure, and get that missing \$8 million in the Low Carbon Economy Fund. The allocation for the NWT was \$32 million. The agreement that has been signed so far is only \$24 million. Four million of that is for public housing retrofits. Nunavut got \$12 million for public housing retrofits. Can the Minister work with his colleague, the Minister of Infrastructure, access that extra \$8 million that is missing from the Low Carbon Economy Fund, and put it into public housing retrofits? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Minister Moses.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the Member's comments. Obviously, we will work with all of our departments. When the funding was allocated, we got our share of the LCEF funding. We will always push to try to get more money. I think this announcement that we are going to hopefully be saying soon will help alleviate a lot of the infrastructure needs that we see in our communities. Looking forward to making that announcement. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Minister Moses. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I hear the Minister. I don't think housing got a fair shake in terms of the money that is flowing to the NWT through the Low Carbon Economy Fund. I think the federal government would be very receptive to increasing the amount that would go for public housing. I am going to leave that to the Minister to sort out. My point here is: we just have to be able to make sure that public housing becomes more of a priority for our Cabinet in the decisions that are made around what gets submitted to federal infrastructure pots like the Low Carbon Economy Fund. I know I bothered this Minister about this issue. I have bothered the previous Minister about this issue. I have raised it in the House in this sitting. Housing is just not a high enough priority for our Cabinet when it comes to federal infrastructure dollars.

Anyways, as I understand this bilateral that is being negotiated as part of the National Housing Strategy, the Minister seems to indicate that this is close. I know these details are not public, but we are supposed to be functioning in some kind of a consensus government system. Can the Minister commit to share what he can at this point about what is being negotiated or what is on the table, what has already been agreed to with that bilateral with the appropriate standing committee before the agreement is actually signed, understanding that this is a consensus government system and that the information might have to be provided on a confidential basis? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. First off, I just want to let the Member

know that, when we speak with our federal counterparts, we continue to put the pressure and let them know our challenges here up in the North. We have actually invited the Minister to come up North and see the challenges of building housing units or any other type of infrastructure. It has been a consistent message to get more funds flowing to the Northwest Territories.

In the bilaterals, we are looking at modernizing and making our units more energy efficient. That will lower the costs on our stock. In terms of providing the details, I would have to take that back to my Cabinet colleagues. However, the Member does know that when we did go through our business plans review, that we did commit that once the bilaterals are signed and finalized, that I would be more than willing to come and present to committee on the details of that agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I am just trying to figure out how much further I can go with this. Look, roads and highways are the priority for this Cabinet. The Minister of Infrastructure, when he appeared before senate committee on the same day that Nunavut announced that they were going to get \$12 million for public housing retrofits under the Low Carbon Economy Fund, our Minister of Infrastructure appeared before us, the senate committee. All he talked about was the big toys for big boys: Taltson, Mackenzie Valley Highway, Slave Geological Province Road, Tlicho All Season Road. Housing was not even mentioned in his speech to those people, not even mentioned in terms of infrastructure needs for the Northwest Territories.

That is the kind of emphasis that is wrong, in my opinion. It is not what our residents need. I want you to work and I know you are going to work hard on this, Minister, but that is not the message that is getting out there. That is not the message that is being delivered in Ottawa. It needs to change. Thanks. That is all I have, Mr. Chair.