

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE
Updating Core Need Report
Committee of the Whole—2021-2022 Operating Budget Review
NWT Housing Corporation—March 10, 2021

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Madam Chair. Yes, the sooner the better. I want to turn now to: the Housing Corporation, as a result of a motion brought forward by the Member for Yellowknife Centre in the last Assembly, developed a report called Towards Level Ground, and this was a very good report that sort of laid the foundation for what it would cost to get our housing out of core need back in September of 2017. Are there any plans to update this work? Because that is the other piece that needs to be taken to Ottawa, in my humble opinion. It's now four years old. Is that going to get updated? Thanks, Madam Chair.

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

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I will have President Tom Williams respond. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. President Williams.

MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Member is correct. Updating the Towards Level Ground on core need across the NWT is critical to present our case to Ottawa and showing our needs that we have in each of our 33 communities, so we will be looking at updating that report. There has been a lot of investment since that report was created, and I have to say that all of our investments that we make in housing are reducing core need across the territories. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Mr. Williams. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Madam Chair, yes, so I just want to be really clear. Is there funding in the budget to get this done this year? This should have been done last year, but is there money to get this updated as soon as possible because this is what you need to take to Ottawa again? Thanks, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I will have President Tom Williams respond. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Mr. Williams.

MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, there is money in our budget, in our contracting budget, that would accommodate revising this, updating the Towards Level Ground report. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Mr. Williams. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks. I appreciate that. I just cannot stress enough the need to get this work done to make the case to Ottawa. I just don't know what else I can say. I will beg, I will scrape, I will do anything to get you guys better prepared to take a case to

Ottawa to get more money for housing for us. It needs to be a priority when you go to Ottawa. I don't know what else I can say. Thanks, Madam Chair.