

KEVIN O'REILLY—MLA FRAME LAKE
Homes Design Funds
Committee of the Whole—2022-2023 Operation Budget Review
NWT Housing Corporation—February 28, 2022

MR. O'REILLY: Okay, thanks. On the same page, 388, then, the new home program, just seems like it was a 2021-2022 program, \$767,000, and then there's nothing before and nothing afterwards. What's happening there? Thanks, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister responsible for NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Madam Chair. This was a program that we were going to initiate throughout the territories, but the cost to build these homes came out a lot higher than expected. It is with the corporation to come up with a new design for this initiative. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Yeah, thanks, Madam Chair. Yeah, \$767,000 might be able to get, if you're really lucky, two homes out of that. What was the original design? Is it to provide some sort of subsidy to new home owners, or what was wrong with the original design, and how's it going to get fixed because there's zero dollars in 2022-2023 for this? Thanks, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister responsible for NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Madam Chair. This was quite a huge project that was supposed to happen. It was to support elders aging in place, I mean with the family. So it was a generational home, I would say, is that they have the family members living in the home and it would be -- there would be an elders suite for the elders to remain in the community. Just with that design, it came out quite significant. The program and the intent was something that we were looking at but with the price coming in at a lot higher than expected, it's being brought back to the corporation for a different design. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Okay, thanks. So and when -- when is this new design going to come forward? Because there's zero in the main estimates, is there going to be a supplementary appropriation? Thanks, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Minister responsible for NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll have vice president Jim Martin respond. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Madam Chair. As the Minister mentioned, the Housing Corporation is in the design revisit phase here, and we do have dollars set aside for the design work that has to be undertaken in this area. We're also looking at the program aspects related to this investment. The multigenerational home is a four-bedroom home. The program outcomes certainly look attractive; however, we're not quite sure it's really aligned to the appropriate program. Right now, it's targeting homeownership and an investment of that size might not necessarily be the right solution for a single-family home. So we're looking at other program options as well in this process, and we expect to provide committee with an update later in the coming year. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Nothing further, thanks, Madam Chair.