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May 22, 2024

MLA George Hickes Chair, Committee of the Whole Legislative Assembly 926 Sivumugiaq St. Igaluit, NU X0A 3H0

RE: Bill 37 - Consideration in Committee

Dear Chair Hickes,

I am writing to you as a follow up to my appearance before the Committee between March 2-4, 2024, to fulfil commitments made to provide additional information on topics of interest to the members.

Office Space in Naujaat and Coral Harbour

On March 2, 2024, MLA Malliki requested the total number of available offices spaces in the communities of Naujaat and Coral Harbour.

According to department officials, in Coral Harbour, there are two office spaces (250 square feet) that are potential lease options in lot 50, which is owned by Sudliq Development Limited. Currently the Government of Nunavut (GN) occupies Building 315-1234. These spaces account for all commercially available space that my department is aware of in Coral Harbour.

Last year in Naujaat the GN purchased Building 325-1237 and my department is unaware of any additional commercially available office space in the community.

My department will continue to work with departments to identify office space needs across Nunavut to maximize the utility of the GN workplace policies.

Number of Inuit Employees Fulfilling Acting Assignments

On March 2, 2024, MLA Lightstone requested the total number of Inuit employees currently filling acting assignments in the department. As of February 29, 2024, the total number of Inuit employees on acting assignment across the department was eight (8).

Page | 1



Additionally, the member requested the number of Inuit employees on transfer assignments with a home position within the Department of Community and Government Services. As of February 29, 2024, the total number was three (3).

Further, the member requested the total number of positions within CGS that require a certified journeymen to qualify for a position. After conducting a preliminary review, department officials have stated that a comprehensive review would require significant resources to complete with absolute accuracy. The preliminary review of positions identified several positions within the Infrastructure Branch, some of which include Building Officials, Plumbing Officials, Boiler/Gas Inspectors, Chief Boiler Inspector, etc.

Metal Shredder

MLA Simailak requested additional information regarding a metal shredder purchased by the department that is being moved from community to community. Department officials have informed me that the plan was to have the shredder moved from one community to another. The metal shredder would be used to shred and bail metal waste resulting in a more compact waste that is easier to transport out of the community or to be stored more efficiently within the community.

The metal shredder is currently located in Kinngait. The shredder is currently inoperable. However, the asset is being assessed to determine if repairs can be carried out onsite or if the shredder has to be removed for repairs. The department has determined that before the unit can be redeployed, specialized training will need to provided to ensure the equipment is commissioned, operated and decommissioned properly..

My department is currently evaluating the feasibility of repairing the shredder and assessing the appropriate training and operational plan requirements to ensure thus asset is operated as designed.

Telecommunications Strategy

On March 4, 2024, MLA Lightstone requested further information on the evaluation of the Information Management/Information Technology (IM/IT) telecommunications strategy with the integration of Starlink.



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Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite

CGS has completed the deployment of LEO satellite services in all 25 Nunavut communities. The plan is to use both LEO and Geostationary (GEO) satellites as there is a need for both to optimize services for GN users. LEO will primarily be used in latency sensitive situations, and GEO will be used where low latency is not a factor, but throughput is.

Investment

The investment into LEO's in 2023-24 was approximately \$5.6 million for the installation and service capacity. For 2024-25 the cost of LEO capacity and support services is projected at \$9.6 million.

Due to the installation of the LEO Gateway and high-performance dishes, the department did not have to renew a C-Band contract with Telesat for \$2.796 million and did not have to renew a C-Band contract with Northwestel for \$3.543 million. CGS utilized the cost savings from these two contracts to fund the additional capacity and support for the LEO based services. The total spent on LEO services exceeded the approved budget of \$5.5 million, however the savings from C-Band contracts was used to supplement the LEO costs, thereby fully utilizing the capacities of the overall satellite service and adding value for the GN.

Deployment

Currently there is a Starlink Gateway installed in Iqaluit and Starlink High Performance dishes installed in every community across Nunavut. There are a total of six (6) high performance dishes in the regional hubs of Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet, and two (2) in every other community.

Service Speeds

The service speeds in Iqaluit is 3.5 Gbps down, and 1.5 Gbps up for the LEO gateway. This capacity will be increased to 6 Gbps down and 3 Gbps up starting in June. In all of the communities across the territory the speeds are dependent on the number of high-performance dishes. It is important to note that these speeds only apply to LEO and they are supplemented with the GEO bandwidth that is still available to the GN as part of our contract with Northwestel for services on the T19V satellite.

Connectivity Assessment

My department engaged a third party to conduct a connectivity assessment to show the current state of connectivity in Nunavut illustrate the potential return on investment of building a fibre link to Nunavut. A primary driver, set by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) of 50 Mbps down and 10 Mbps up is referred to the CRTC internet standard for households. The CRTC standard allows for real-time videoconferencing and other data-intensive applications, with an option for unlimited bandwidth, thereby removing the worry of data overage fees. This would also allow multiple devices to simultaneously use the services on the same internet connection without interruption or delays.

The assessment illustrates that neither LEO or GEO internet can consistently meet the growing connectivity needs of the Government of Nunavut, residents and businesses; and that a

a hybrid solution consisting of a combination of fibre and satellite service is the most practical means of meeting the territory's growing connectivity needs. Fibre has significantly higher bandwidth capacity, is more resilient and less likely to experience internet outages. With increasing reliance on technologies that require high-speed internet, the introduction of fibre optimizes Nunavut's opportunity to consistently meet the CRTC internet standard.

I have attached the executive summary of the IM/IT Connectivity Assessment to this correspondence for your convenience with translations to follow.

Surplus buildings

On March 4, 2024, MLA Lightstone requested the list of buildings that have been processed through the surplus process to department and other organizations. See *Table 1. Surplus Assets* below detailing each asset that has been processed for surplus.

Table 1. Surplus Assets

Asset		Region	Community	Next A	Action It	tem			
NAC	Admin.	Kitikmeot	Cambridge	Nov.	2023	-	Funding	approved	to
Building		remediate/remove summer 2024.							
NAC	Solar	Kitikmeot	Cambridge	Nov.	2023	-	Funding	approved	to
Apartments		Bay	remediate/remove summer 2024.						

Page | 4

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NAC Duplex (two	Kitikmeot	Cambridge	Nov. 2023 - Funding approved to		
asset #s)		Bay	remediate/remove summer 2024.		
NAC Portable	Kitikmeot	Cambridge	Nov. 2023 - Funding approved to		
Classroom		Bay	remediate/remove summer 2024.		
NAC Portable	Kitikmeot	Cambridge	Nov. 2023 - Funding approved to		
Classroom		Bay	remediate/remove summer 2024.		
Old Trade Shop	Kivalliq	Arviat	Nov. 2023 - Funding approved to		
			remediate/remove summer 2024.		
Hospice	Kivalliq	Baker Lake	Nov. 2023 – Funding approved to		
			remediate/remove summer 2024.		
Old Health Centre	Kivalliq	Naujaat	Nov. 2023 - Funding approved to		
			remediate/remove summer 2024.		
Old Pump House	Kivalliq	Naujaat	Nov. 2023 - Funding approved to		
			remediate/remove summer 2024.		
Old Adult	Qikiqtaaluk	Igloolik	Nov. 2023 - Funding approved to		
Education Facility			remediate/remove summer 2024.		
Health Centre	Qikiqtaaluk	Pangnirtung	Nov. 2023 - CGS will obtain an Environment		
			Site Assessment (ESA) summer 2024.		
Nunatta Old	Qikiqtaaluk	Iqaluit	Feb 1, 2023 - Multiple Departments		
Residence			interested.		

Additionally, a number of departmental assets have been repurposed for use by other departments, see *Table 2. Transferred Assets April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2024* below.

Table 2. Transferred Assets April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2024

Community Asset - Description		Transferred to		
Kinngait	Surplus Health Centre	FS		
Kinngait	2 BDRM APARTMENT #1 – 5 (total of 5 2-bedrom units)	FS		
Iqaluit	T-25 Warehouse Bldg.	NHC		
Pond Inlet	Past Adult Education Centre # 207	Hamlet		
Pond Inlet Past School Technology Centre # 211		Hamlet		
Arviat	Carver's Studio	Health		
Baker Lake	Martha Taliruq Centre	Health		
Rankin Inlet Kataujaq DAY CARE		Kataujaq Society		



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Naujaat	Portable Classroom - Highschool	Hamlet
Naujaat	Portable Classroom - Highschool	Hamlet
Kugluktuk Portable Classroom		Hamlet

Fuel Filter Collection Program

On March 4, 2024, I committed to providing an update on the quality assurance program under development by department. While there were minor delays initiating the program to ensure that the supporting laboratory access was available, the program is underway.

On May 9, 2024, PPD issued a Public Service Announcement (PSA) detailing enhancements to fuel quality control including the introduction of a mid-year certification of gasoline to affirm that all samples meet or exceed Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) specifications year-round. To date, lab results for all communities have been received, all meeting the GCSB specification.

To boost consumer engagement and responsiveness, PPD established a dedicated email (fuelquality@gov.nu.ca) for inquiries or concerns regarding fuel quality. Additionally, as outlined in the PSA, PPD has issued an ongoing Request for Proposals (RFP) for expanded testing services, which includes the evaluation of fuel filters to increase quality assurance efforts.

I trust you will find this letter addresses the areas of interest identified by members during winter session 2024.

Sincerely,

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Hon. David Joanasie

Minister, Community and Government Services

Page | 6



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Cc: John Quirke, Clerk of the Assembly
Stephen Innuksuk, Deputy Clerk
Kyle Seeley, Deputy Minister
Matthew Hough, Assistant Deputy Minister of Infrastructure
Jessica Young, Assistant Deputy Minister of Local Government
Mandy Hickey, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services
Dean Wells, Corporate Chief Operating Officer
Nathaniel Hutchinson, Director, Petroleum Products Division
Brad McFaul, Director, Policy & Consumer Affairs