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Asked by: Mr. John Main, MLA
Arviat North-Whale Cove

Asked of: The Honourable Jeannie Ehaloak
Minister of Community and Government Services

Number: 92-5 (2)

Date: June 9, 2021

Subject: Employment of Journeypersons and Apprentices

Question:

1. For the fiscal years 2018-2019, 2019-2020, and 2020-2021:
 - a) Broken down by trade, how many journeypersons were employed by the department?
 - b) Broken down by trade, how many apprentices were employed by the department?
 - c) What was the vacancy rate for journeyperson and apprentice positions with the department during this period?
2. How did staffing issues (e.g. turnover, recruitment) for journeypersons impact the operations of the department during the above-noted fiscal years?

Response:

- 1a) The department does not formally track the number of employed journeypersons by trade. Official certification documents are collected and maintained by the Department of Human Resources as part of the hiring process. However, the department is able to provide the following data for the fiscal years 2018-2019, 2019-2020, and 2020-2021 broken down by trade:

- i) 2018-2019:
 - a. 1 carpenter
 - b. 3 electricians
 - ii) 2019-2020:
 - a. 3 electricians
 - iii) 2020-2021:
 - a. 3 carpenters
 - b. 4 electricians
 - c. 2 oil burner mechanic
 - d. 2 plumbers
 - e. 2 water and wastewater technicians
 - f. 13 facility maintainers
- 1b) The department does not formally track the number of apprentices by trade. Records of apprentices are collected and maintained by the Department of Family Services, Apprenticeship Unit which supports Nunavut apprentices on their way to becoming journeypersons.
- 1c) As the department does not maintain records related to the number of employed journeypersons and apprentices, we are not able to provide a vacancy rate for journeypersons and apprentice positions.
2. Staffing issues continue to impact the operations of the department. The department has operated at an average overall vacancy rate of approximately 30% over the last 5 years. This average increases to approximately 40% when limited to infrastructure related positions. These positions are persistently hard-to-fill because of several issues including specific educational requirements, technical experience and housing challenges. Gaining the required number of hours to attain journeyperson status in the construction trades is also particularly challenging given Nunavut's short construction season.