

Adam Arreak Lightstone

Written Question



Asked by: Adam Arreak Lightstone

Asked of: Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak

Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Number: 89-5(2)

Date: June 9, 2021

Subject: Administration of QEC's Staff Housing 2021

Purpose: Over the years I have monitored the administration of the staff housing program through a series of written question, and I would like to seek updated information.

1. As of March 31, 2021, broken down by community and size of unit (bachelor unit, 1 bedroom unit, 2 bedroom unit, 3 bedroom unit and 4+ bedroom unit), how many staff housing units were **maintained** by the Qulliq Energy Corporation?
2. How many of the units referred to in question #1 are reserved for transient use?
3. As of March 31, 2021, broken down by community and size of unit (bachelor unit, 1 bedroom unit, 2 bedroom unit, 3 bedroom unit and 4+ bedroom unit), how many staff housing units were maintained by the Qulliq Energy Corporation were **vacant**?
 - a. In response to the 2020 staff housing written question QEC had indicated that 16 vacant units which require major renovation. As Nunavut is in a housing crisis I would like to request an update on these units.

- b. In response to the 2020 staff housing written question QEC had indicated that it,

“received four housing units during the transfer of assets from Northwest Territories Power Corporation which are not maintained nor will be renovated for use as they are in a dilapidated state of repair. These units are located in Iqloolik, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet & Taloyoak; QEC is looking to dispose of these four units and will work with the GN and the municipalities in this process.”

As Nunavut is in a housing crisis I would like to request an update on these units.

4. As of March 31, 2021, broken down by community and size of unit (bachelor unit, 1 bedroom unit, 2 bedroom unit, 3 bedroom unit and 4+ bedroom unit), how many staff housing units were maintained by the Qulliq Energy Corporation were **not vacant**?
5. As of March 31, 2021, broken down by community, and category of position (Executive, Senior Management, Middle Management, Professional, Paraprofessional, Administrative Support), how many staff housing units were rented to employees who were **Nunavut Inuit**?
6. As of March 31, 2021, broken down by community, and category of position (Executive, Senior Management, Middle Management, Professional, Paraprofessional, Administrative Support), how many staff housing units were rented to employees who were **not Nunavut Inuit**?
7. As of March 31, 2021, broken down by community and size of unit (bachelor unit, 1 bedroom unit, 2 bedroom unit, 3 bedroom unit and 4+ bedroom unit), how many of the staff housing units referred to in question #1 were **owned** by the Qulliq Energy Corporation?
8. As of March 31, 2021, broken down by community and size of unit (bachelor unit, 1 bedroom unit, 2 bedroom unit, 3 bedroom unit and 4+ bedroom unit), how many of the staff housing units referred to in question #1 were **leased** by the Qulliq Energy Corporation?

9. As of March 31, 2021, what was the average monthly value of the staff housing **subsidy** provided to employees renting staff housing units?
 - a. how many of the staff housing units referred to in question #1 include utilities paid for by the employer, please provide the total cost of the subsidised utilities for the 2020-21 fiscal year.
10. As of March 31, 2021, broken down by community, how many individuals were on the staff housing **waiting list**?
11. In a previous response QEC had indicated that there were zero employees on the waitlist, and that there is an application process. Please provide details of the application process, how many employees applied in the last 3 fiscal years, and attach a copy of the application.
12. In a previous response QEC had indicated that there is not a **Rental Assistance Program** similar to that offered by The Government of Nunavut Staff housing Policy to ensure lower income employees in staff housing are charged affordable rent. QEC had indicated that :

“the housing compensation package for employees includes subsidized housing with rental rates that are lower than the GN’s rates. Also, QEC pays for water, sewer and garbage to the units which the GN does not. QEC believes this to adequately compensate for the lack of a rental assistance program.”

Why does QEC staff housing rental rates and subsidised utilities (such as electricity, water, sewer and garbage) differ than that offered by the GN staff housing program?
13. In a previous response QEC had indicated that the Corporation encourages homeownership by providing a household allowance to employees that are not in staff housing, as of March 31, 2021 how many employees receive this benefit?
14. In the 2018-2019 Annual report of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Note 13 – other income, identifies housing recoveries of employees to be \$1,481,000. What was the total cost was of associated with Qulliq Energy Corporation’s staff housing in the 2018-2019 fiscal year?

15. The Nunavut Housing Corporation Schedule B – consolidated schedule of expense by type provides detailed expenditures by type for the staff housing program, can the Qulliq Energy Corporation provide the same level of **detail for the cost** of staff housing program for the 2018-2019 fiscal year?

This is a repeat of the same question I has asked last year. I have asked this identical question in previous years and received a detailed response, unfortunately last year QEC decided that this was no longer possible. Therefore I will ask it again, and that the response contain information similar to the response to written question 22-5(2) dated February 2019.

16. In the 2019-2020 Annual report of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Note 13 – other income, identifies housing recoveries of employees to be \$1,628,000. What was the total cost was of associated with Qulliq Energy Corporation’s staff housing in the 2019-2020 fiscal year?

17. The Nunavut Housing Corporation Schedule B – consolidated schedule of expense by type provides detailed expenditures by type for the staff housing program, can the Qulliq Energy Corporation provide the same level of **detail for the cost** of staff housing program for the 2019-2020 fiscal year?

18. As the Corporation’s staff housing program is essential to program delivery, as well as the fact that the costly program represents 4% of total expenditures in 2017-18. Last year when I asked why are the costs not disclosed into the financial statements? The response was that Public Service Accounting Standards makes no request for this detail.

The cost of QEC operations, including costs of providing staff housing are covered by the revenues generated by the ratepayers. I believe that ratepayers have a right to know how much of their electricity bills are paying for heavily subsidised staff housing. Will QEC consider including more detail on the cost of staff housing in the next annual report?

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19. Does Qulliq Energy Corporation currently lease staff housing units from Qulliq Energy Corporation employees?