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Office of Minister David Joanasie
Havakvingni Ministam David Joanasie
Bureau du ministre David Joanasie

May 9, 2023

Mr. George Hickes,
Chair, Committee of the Whole
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Box 1200
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

RE: Committee of the Whole Appearance Follow-Up

Dear ~~Mr. Hickes~~ George,

I am writing to you as a follow-up to questions brought forward during my appearance February 28 – March 1, 2023. I committed to provide additional information to the committee on six topics.

Below, separated by topic, you will find the information requested from the appearance.

1. Consumer Affairs - Consumer Protection Act

On February 28, MLA Nutarak requested an update on when the Consumer Protection Act review process would commence. Due to the scope of the initiative and breadth of the *Consumer Protection Act*, in order for this process to move forward, the department has significant work to plan and complete.

In consideration of the human and financial resources required and the current legislative initiatives the department is working on, a realistic timeline for seeking a Cabinet decision on the Policy intentions Paper is in early 2024.

2. Human Resources – Job Vacancies in Pond Inlet and Kinngait

On February 28, MLA Hickes requested a breakdown of the job vacancies in Pond Inlet and Kinngait with the number of positions currently under staffing action and filled by casuals. Please see *Table 1.1 Kinngait and Pond Inlet Staffing* for the details requested.

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Table 1.1 Kinngait and Pond Inlet Staffing

COW Follow-up: Kinngait and Pond Inlet Vacancies			
	Kinngait	Pond Inlet	Total
Total positions	24	33	57
Total position filled	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Vacancies	14	21	35
# of Positions under staffing action	* 7	15	22
# of Positions filled by CSA	1	6	7
# of Positions filled by RESA	0	1	1

*CSAs and RESAs are not tabulated as positions filled

3. Consumer Affairs Complaint Form

On February 28, MLA Hickes requested a copy of the Consumer Affairs Complaint Form, in all languages, have been attached to this correspondence. This form can also be found on the department's website Consumer Affairs | Government of Nunavut.

4. Steps the Department of Community and Government Services (CGS) Takes to Address Health and Safety-Related Issues for Old, Unused Buildings

On March 1, MLA Kaenerk requested a follow-up outlining the steps the department takes to address health and safety-related issues for abandoned GN buildings.

CGS is responsible for administering the GN's Surplus and Disposal Policy in accordance with Financial Administration Manual (FAM) Directive 704-3. For your convenience, the policy has been attached to this correspondence and can also be found on the CGS website (surplus_disposal_policy_-_update.pdf (gov.nu.ca).

The Department's Real Property Division maintains an inventory of all GN surplus buildings slated for disposal. When a structure enters the surplus disposal workflow, CGS utilizes existing funding sources to evaluate the building's condition and repurposing potential. Evaluations include a Building Condition Assessment, a Hazardous Material Assessment, an Environment Site Assessment, and a Market Value Property Appraisal. CGS commissions these assessments by third-party professionals in the industry and can cost up to $50,000 each. The demolitions, however, can cost much more. For

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example, remediating and demolishing an Old Health Centre may cost $800,000 to $1.5 million, a cost for which there is not an established funding source.

To address the backlog of retired buildings awaiting remediation and removal, the Department is evaluating a new program that would establish a fund to responsibly remediate, repurpose or remove the current backlog of buildings at the end of their useful lifespan. Subject to approval in the assembly as part of the 2024-25 Capital Estimates, this program could be initiated in the 2024-25 fiscal year.

With respect to the *Safety Act*, when a project for the demolition/removal of an asset is tendered, the scope includes the Hazardous Material Assessment and Environment Site Assessment that was completed on the asset. The successful proponent is responsible for completing the project in compliance with the *Safety Act,* as well as any other applicable legislation required to safely demolish and remove the materials from the site.

5. <u>List of Outstanding Green Stream Funding</u>

On March 1, MLA Hickes requested a list of outstanding applications to Infrastructure Bank of Canada under the Green Stream Funding. At present, the Department does not have any outstanding applications to the Infrastructure Bank of Canada. The Department is however pursuing or considering pursuing several projects under the Green Infrastructure stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). The ICIP is administered by Infrastructure Canada. Below in *Table 2.1 Green Infrastructure Stream Projects* you will find a list of each project under the Green Infrastructure Stream.

Table 2.1 Green Infrastructure Stream Projects

Green Infrastructure Stream Projects		
Project	**Phase**	**Status**
Arctic Bay Water Treatment Plant	Planning phase	Completed
	Design, construction, & warranty phases	Pending Approvals
Arviat Sewage Lagoon Expansion	Design phase	In Progress
Grise Fiord Water Treatment Plant	Planning phase	Completed
	Design phase	In Progress

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	Construction & warranty phases	Pending Approvals
Iqaluit Solid Waste Facility	Multi-phase	In Progress
Kugaaruk Sewage Lagoon Upgrades	Multi-phase	Completed
Pond Inlet Water Treatment Plant	Planning phase	Completed
	Design, construction, & warranty phases	Pending Approvals
Rankin Inlet Water Treatment Plant	Planning phase	Completed
	Design phase	In Progress
	Construction & warranty phases	Pending Approvals
Rankin Inlet Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades	Planning phase	Completed
	Design, construction, & warranty phases	Pending Approvals
Sanikiluaq Water Treatment Plant	Planning phase – completed	Completed
	Design, construction, & warranty phases	Pending Approvals

6. Update on Broadband Funding to link Kivalliq

The department has applied to the Universal Broadband Fund (UBF) for the Kivalliq Connection Project. The proposed connection runs from Churchill, Manitoba, to Arviat, Rankin Inlet and then to Coral Harbour. The estimated project cost is $108 million and the contribution ratio is a 90/10 split (90% UBF/10% GN). The application is currently pending approval with Innovation, Science, and Economic Development (ISED). A successful application would help bring the GN closer in their pursuit of providing equitable services to all Nunavut communities by moving Arviat and Rankin from the satellite network, freeing up bandwidth for other Nunavut communities. As soon as further information is available about the application, I will provide Committee members with an update.

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If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the topics covered in this letter, please feel free to contact me.

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Hon. David Joanasie
Minister, Community and Government Services

Cc: John Quirke, Clerk
Kyle Seeley, Deputy Minister, Community and Government Services
Brad McFaul, Director, Policy & Consumer Affairs

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