



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

February 14, 2019

Honourable Alfred Moses
Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, GNWT
PO Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Honourable Wally Schumann
Minister of Infrastructure, GNWT
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Dear Ministers Moses and Schumann,

Re: Territorial Building Regime

On January 28, 2019 City Council, through Motion #0012-19, formally supported requesting that the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) establish a comprehensive building regime for the purpose of providing regulatory clarity throughout the Northwest Territories (NWT).

At this time, the NWT is the only jurisdiction within Canada without a regulatory framework. Compared to our sister territories, the Yukon Territory and Nunavut, the NWT does not have any legislation that regulates construction in detail. The Yukon Territory has a *Building Standards Act* and Nunavut has a *Building Code Act*. The NWT does not have similar legislation, leading to an absence of clear building-related responsibilities for municipalities.

Through the *Cities, Towns, and Villages Act*, the City of Yellowknife can choose to adopt by-laws to regulate the safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property. Pursuant to this, the City has chosen to create the Building By-law, that regulates local construction; however, the *Cities, Towns, and Villages Act* does not formally define the building-related responsibilities and interconnection between the function of the GNWT and tax based municipalities.

While some may hold the perception that the current status quo approach is adequate, this is unfortunately not the case. Individuals and developers are often frustrated because they need to deal with multiple regulatory offices for building plans, electrical permits, construction, inspections and occupancy.

The City of Yellowknife is requesting that the GNWT make the establishment of a Territorial building regime a priority in order to reduce current regulatory hurdles and provide better customer service. As well, the clarity on who is the ultimate authority and how regulatory requirements are interpreted would improve the terms for development considerably.

The City of Yellowknife looks forward to working with the GNWT on this, given that this type of regulatory clarity would improve service coordination and provide improved customer service for all northern development, including that taking place in Yellowknife.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Alty
Mayor

cc:

Yellowknife Members of the Legislative Assembly
Sheila Bassi-Kellett, City Administrator

(DM#548843)

