



Northwest Territories mi

Ihumiurviat  
Malirutaliatigun

MEETING EDE 52-20-25

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND ENVIRONMENT**

~

**MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2025  
EAGLE ROOM, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY / ZOOM  
7:00 PM**

---

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer/reflection
3. Review and Adoption of Agenda
4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
5. Public Matters
  - a) Public briefing on Clean Energy with Dinjii Zhuh Solutions
6. In Camera Matters
  - a) Debrief
  - b) Workplan
7. New Business
  - a)
8. Date and Time of Next Meeting:
  - Wednesday June 11, 2025 at 330pm
9. Adjournment



## **Fort McPherson Retrofit Pilot Project**

Presentation to the  
Standing Committee on  
Economic Development and  
Environment

# Goals for retrofits

- Project objective: Improve residential energy efficiency, reduce reliance on diesel and support Canada's net-zero goals.
- Strategic Importance: Addresses critical northern challenges, rising fuel costs, permafrost impact, and climate change mitigation.



# Community Profile



## Population and Indigenous Identity

- Tetlit Zheh has about 700 residents, with 94% identifying as Indigenous.

## Homeownership and age distribution

- 128 homeowners and 134 public rental units.
- 64% of homeowners are 65+, 78% are 50+, highlighting aging housing stock.

# Project Overview

- Primary Objective: Enhance home energy efficiency to lower diesel reliance and operational costs for homeowners.
- Scope of work: Retrofitted 5 residential units from a total stock of 128, addressing critical infrastructure needs.
- Retrofit Measures: Upgrades included foundation leveling, insulating building envelopes, floor and attics; roof replacements; triple-pane windows; double doors; exterior LED fixtures; and 3 roofs were replaced.



## Timeline and Scope

- **Project Timeline:** Retrofits began in July 2024 and were completed in October 2024.
- **Key Milestones:** 5 homes full retrofitted; residents report noticeable warmth improvements and reduce fuel use.
- **Workforce Engagement:** Contractor from Dawson City, Yukon led the work, supported by 3 apprentices (2 local) and 1 labourer.



# Community Impact and Engagement

## **Community Engagement**

- Established Advisory Committee
- Held Open houses and provided updates on CBQM to provide updates on energy efficiency practices, retrofit plans, climate action, and net-zero goals

## **Community Interest**

- Homeowners eager for future retrofits due to rising fuel costs, high cost of living, and permafrost-related foundation issues.

# Challenges and Lessons Learned

- Supply Chain Disruptions: Road closures due to landslides and forest fires delayed material shipments from Whitehorse and forced air travel for contractors.
- Accommodation Limitations: No available lodging required costly house rental for crew over summer.
- Storage spaced limitations: Paid for rental space to store materials and supplies.
- Future improvements: Plan to purchase camp trailer and secure storage lot to reduce project costs and logistical risks.



# Funding gaps and implications

- Unsecured Core Funding
- Apprentice Training Funding Gap
- Capital Asset Dependencies
- Proposal-Dependent Inflation Provisions



# Future Plans

## Scaling Northern Retrofit Initiatives

- 5-Year Retrofit Plan: Proposal to retrofit 20 homes annually in Fort McPherson over the next 5 years.
- Workforce Expansion: Establish two retrofit teams, expanding apprenticeship opportunities and achieving certifications by end of project.
- Community-led development: Prioritize Indigenous hiring, community capacity building, and practical logistics upgrades including camp trailers and storage lots.



# Conclusion

- Retrofits reduce subsidy costs: lower heating fuel consumption will facilitate a reduction in GNWT's Senior's Fuel/wood Subsidy Program.
- Capacity Building: Trades certification and creates employment within the communities.
- Retrofits is a key and integral part of addressing housing in the NWT.
- Support leadership that addresses housing.
- Established Housing Society to take the leadership for housing in the community.