



MS. JULIE GREEN
MLA, YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

JUN 29 2017

Oral Questions 776-18(2)
Dedicated Space to Support Victims of Sexual Violence

On May 29, 2017 you asked questions in the Legislative Assembly regarding establishing a private space for victims of sexual assault to receive support, as well as for the collection of evidence using a sexual assault kit. I have discussed your concerns with Chief Superintendent (C/Supt) Jamie Zettler, Commanding Officer of "G" Division. I have also raised these concerns with my colleague, the Minister of Health and Social Services. As part of the work of the NWT Victim Services Program, Department of Justice officials work closely with the RCMP and local community-based organizations to continually improve the experiences of victims as they heal from whatever ordeal has brought them into contact with Victim Services. Part of that ongoing work in Yellowknife has been with the local RCMP Detachment and the Native Women's Association who are providing victim services in Yellowknife.

I understand that as a group they are working together to consider options for sexual assault investigations that acknowledge the challenges victims face in reporting these serious crimes, but still allow for a thorough investigation of the complaint. One of the options they are considering is working with other local NGOs and health authorities to establish a more private space for victims of sexual assault to receive support. Previous initiatives of this group include the establishment of a "soft" interview room at the Yellowknife Detachment that investigators can use to interview vulnerable victims where a more private and less institutional experience is required to better support them. This interview room is accessed from a private entrance separate from the public detachment entrance, in order to provide additional consideration for the privacy of victims.

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C/Supt Zettler and the Minister of Health and Social Services have both assured me that they are in full support of our continued collaboration, together and with local NGOs, to further initiatives that better support victims of crime. I will share any new developments as they arise.

Thank you for your questions and your continued support for policing and community safety matters.



Louis Sebert
Minister of Justice

c. Honourable Glen Abernethy, Minister, Health and Social Services

Mr. Tim Mercer, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. Gary Bohnet, Principal Secretary

Mr. Martin Goldney, Deputy Minister of Justice

Mr. David Hastings, Legislative Coordinator