



MS. JULIE GREEN  
MLA, YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

JUN 29 2017

**Oral Questions 764-18(2) and 767-18(2):  
Sexual Assault Complaints Classified as Unfounded**

On May 25, 2017 you asked questions in the Legislative Assembly regarding the review that “G” Division undertook of sexual assault complaints classified as unfounded between 2010 and 2016. You also wanted to know if complainants were contacted during the review, and if other police forces in Canada were using the Philadelphia model of sexual assault complaints review, and how well it has been working.

As Attorney General, I cannot become involved in specific matters before the court or under the investigation of the RCMP. The RCMP must feel free to pursue investigations in a manner that is free from any undue influence or perception of such influence on my part. I can, however, do my best to provide you with additional information as to how “G” Division’s review was undertaken.

During the review undertaken by “G” Division of complaints classified as “unfounded”, senior RCMP members reviewed the files for investigative quality and to determine if the files were closed and coded in compliance with Statistics Canada Uniform Crime Reporting standards. When proceeding with an investigation into a complaint, RCMP members are required to meet an investigative quality assurance standard called the Unit Level Quality Assurance (ULQA). Some of what the ULQA includes in terms of standards is: quality of investigator note-taking to ensure compliance with relevant policies in order to support investigations, corroborate evidence, and maintain the credibility of a member’s testimony in court; and compliance with operational, financial, administrative, and program responsibilities.

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Members are also required to follow reporting standards when investigations are complete that determine how files are classified in their reporting system. These standards are driven by Statistics Canada requirements so that the data from police systems can be used to meet Uniform Crime Data reports. During the review of the 2010-2016 complaints classified as “unfounded” some complaints were found to have been incorrectly scored as “unfounded” rather than “unsubstantiated” as was more appropriate. In most of these cases, the investigation was found to be thorough and complete, and the change of classification was not the result of a different investigative conclusion.

In some cases, further information or review was required by the investigator, and the file was sent back for further administrative or investigative action by the investigator. In many cases, things like case notes needed to be added to the file to meet the ULQA, and in some, further investigation was required. Where warranted and appropriate, complainants may have been contacted for follow-up and this was on a case-by-case basis. As I mentioned in my formal written return to the Legislative Assembly on May 25, 2017, the resulting total number of complaints classified as “unfounded” for the NWT changed to 18.7%. The Commanding Officer of “G” Division also added a requirement that all sexual assault complaints in the NWT coded as “unfounded” are to be reviewed by a senior RCMP member to ensure compliance with the ULQA, reporting standards, and that they are in keeping with the high level of professionalism that we expect from RCMP members in the NWT. In addition, members have been provided with further education and clarification on the scoring criteria so that scoring concerns can be addressed.

I have conducted some research on the Philadelphia Model, and understand that it is an external oversight model of accountability that independently reviews the handling of sexual assault complaints investigated by the police. I understand that there are some independent municipal police forces that have adopted or have plans to implement oversight processes based on this model in Canada, including the Ottawa Police Service, the Fredericton Police Service, and more recently the Calgary Police Service. I have been informed that the RCMP at a national level is reviewing the Philadelphia Model, and that based on the recommendations of the reviewers, the senior management team of the RCMP will make a decision in the coming months on whether this model or a similar process can be instituted by the RCMP across Canada. I understand that many other Canadian police forces are considering the Philadelphia Model and what implementation might look like in their jurisdictions.

I commit to updating Members of the Legislative Assembly on any decision made by the RCMP at a National level, as well as any future initiatives undertaken at "G" Division in this regard.

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



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Minister of Justice

c. Mr. Tim Mercer  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. Gary Bohnet  
Principal Secretary

Mr. Martin Goldney  
Deputy Minister of Justice

Mr. David Hastings  
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