



MAR 03 2017

MR. R. J. SIMPSON  
MLA, HAY RIVER NORTH

**Oral Question 641-18(2): Rental Office Workload Challenges**

On February 23, 2017, you requested that I assess the business case for adding another Rental Officer position to the NWT Rental Office, and I committed to doing so. You also raised this issue during the Committee of the Whole review of Main Estimates on February 28, 2017.

The Department of Justice is aware that in recent years there has been an increase in the time that elapses between the filing of an application with the Rental Officer and the subsequent hearing date scheduled. The Rental Office has taken steps to reduce the wait times including increasing the number of hearings conducted through the auspices of 3-way teleconferencing, and scheduling face-to-face hearings outside of Yellowknife more promptly. The changes to scheduling practices have produced positive preliminary results, but the Department acknowledges there is room for improvement.

As you are aware, the cost of an additional Rental Officer is not within the present budget allocation for the Department of Justice, but I can say that the Department is in the process of reviewing the steps required to appoint a second Rental Officer, and as indicated in the House, is preparing a business case to assist with decision making for the 2018-19 planning cycle.

Thank you.

Louis Sebert  
Minister of Justice

- c Mr. Tim Mercer, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
- Mr. Martin Goldney, Deputy Minister, Justice
- Mr. David Hastings, Legislative Coordinator