



SEP 30 2016

MR. KEVIN O'REILLY  
MLA, FRAME LAKE

**OQ 15-18(2) – Yellowknife RCMP Staff Housing**

On February 19, 2016, you asked a question in the Legislative Assembly about the RCMP decision to opt out of Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) housing in the communities of Yellowknife, Inuvik, Fort Smith, Fort Simpson, Norman Wells and Hay River. You were concerned about the ability of “G” Division to recruit and retain RCMP members and asked for a report in six months on any impacts. I have followed up with the RCMP and can report the following:

“G” Division RCMP has begun a transition process through attrition to eliminate their dependence on PWGSC housing in Yellowknife. No RCMP employee whose transfer notice to Yellowknife was received after March 31, 2016 will be eligible to reside in PWGSC housing. RCMP employees currently residing in PWGSC-owned pool housing will be “grandfathered” and are eligible to continue living in this housing until March 31, 2021. The numbers of employees living in PWGSC housing will gradually be reduced over the next few years through the normal transfer process. To date, the transition from PWGSC housing in Yellowknife for RCMP members to the real estate or private rental market has not affected the ability of the RCMP to attract police officers who want to serve here. There has been no effect on recruitment and retention of police officers in Yellowknife.

RCMP members continue to reside in PWGSC housing in the other five affected communities: Inuvik, Fort Smith, Fort Simpson, Norman Wells, and Hay River. RCMP “G” Division is working with the GNWT and the NWT Housing Corporation (NWT HC) to replace the PWGSC housing in those communities. This process is ongoing and consists of three phases. In the first phase, the NWT HC, in collaboration with the Department of Justice, has finalized a Memorandum of Agreement between the RCMP and the NWT HC for the delivery of 45 new rental units. The NWT HC has secured land for all 45 units and is in the process of awarding the contract for the first phase of the housing units in the community of Fort Smith. This work is scheduled for completion this fiscal year. The second phase includes building housing units in Fort Simpson, and Norman Wells and eight units in Hay River. In the third phase the remaining four units will be built in Hay River and all units completed in Inuvik.

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The second and third phases have not yet commenced. It is expected that the transition from PWGSC housing to NWT HC housing will have no effect on the recruitment and retention of police officers to those communities.

The Department of Justice will continue to work with "G" Division to monitor this project for any impacts on recruitment and retention of RCMP members to the North.

Thank you for your question and I hope the information I have provided adequately addresses your concern.

Sincerely,



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