



JUN 07 2019

MS. JULIE GREEN
MLA, YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

Oral Question 773-18(3) Third Party Sexual Assault Reporting

On June 5, 2019, you asked questions in the Legislative Assembly regarding Third Party Reporting of Sexual Assaults.

I would like to clarify my response to the questions you raised in relation to the engagement process currently underway. The Department of Justice, Community Justice and Policing Division, in collaboration with the RCMP and a representative from the Department of Health and Social Services, formed a committee to explore options for two specific potential initiatives related to sexualized violence: Third Party Reporting of Sexual Assaults and Advocate Review of Sexual Assault Investigations.

The committee explored a number of initiatives in other provinces and the Yukon and determined that both initiatives have potential for implementation in the Northwest Territories. Implementing these initiatives should help improve public and victim confidence in reporting sexualized violence given the significant challenges we know are experienced in reporting these crimes.

In order to ensure that we move forward in an informed manner, stakeholder consultations have been set for June 11 and 12 in Yellowknife. These consultations will seek input and guidance from a variety of service providers in the Territory. Invitees include Victim Services Providers from across the NWT, the NWT Status of Women, the Native Women's Association of the NWT, the YWCA, the Yellowknife Women's Society and family violence shelter representatives from across the NWT.

A subject matter expert from Ottawa National RCMP Headquarters with relevant experience in other jurisdictions will be in attendance as well to provide advice and guidance.

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We are also very fortunate to be able to have Sunny Marriner, a national subject matter expert in the development of case advocate review committees, and the Project Lead – VAW (Violence Against Women) Advocate Case Review Project out of Ottawa, Ontario. Ms. Marriner has been a key support and advisor to the development of many of these committees in many other Provinces and Territories.

Thank you for your continued interest in this very important subject. I'll be happy to share the outcome of this important engagement with you this summer, as well as the next steps the Department of Justice will be taking to move these initiatives forward.

If you require further information, please contact my office.



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