



FEB 20 2019

MS. JULIE GREEN
MLA, YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

Oral Question 569-18(3): Sexual Assault Reporting

On February 14, 2019, you asked questions in the Legislative Assembly regarding options for third-party sexual assault reporting and external review of sexual assault cases closed without charge.

Third-party sexual assault reporting allows the victim to provide information to the RCMP about what happened to them, without making a formal police report. Women can tell their story to a trained support worker, who then transmits the information to the police. Police cannot conduct a criminal investigation based on a third-party report, but this process creates a record of what happened, in case victims change their mind and want to report later.

External reviews can identify improvements to processes and services that could reduce the number and proportion of sexual assault cases closed without charge. The reviewed cases do not include those received through a third-party reporting system, as those reports do not result in investigative files being opened.

A working group, led by Community Justice and Policing, has been engaging experts and researching implementation models for both initiatives. The working group has representation from the Department of Justice, G Division RCMP, and the Department of Health and Social Services. Options were developed and brought forward to the GNWT/RCMP Joint Strategic Planning Committee in late January. These options are being refined, and will be prepared to present and discuss with community partners in April 2019. Considerations include the potential role of front-line service providers to participate in either or both projects, the amount of administrative support required including training, and the number of external reviews to be conducted each year.

Both initiatives have great potential, and any resource implications would potentially need to be included as part of the business planning process. Experience in other parts of North America has shown that dedicated funding and training would be required before implementation could take place.

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Thank you for your continued support for these initiatives. As I know you share the concern and commitment I have to seeing this work happen, I am happy to update you as the work progresses. Should 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