



DEC 06 2018

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

Oral Question 450-18(3): Child and Family Services

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on October 25, 2018 regarding Child and Family Services.

Over the period from April 1, 2008 to September 30, 2017 there were a total of 3167 individual children who received Child and Family Services in the Northwest Territories.

The 2017-18 Director's Report I tabled last session showed some trends that represent the kind of changes we want to see in our Child and Family Services (CFS) system for these individuals. We've taken action to make a difference in the lives of children and families by focusing more on prevention activities. For example, more families who are facing challenges in caring for their children are being helped through Voluntary Service Agreements, and the children are remaining in the care of their parents, while the proportion of children being removed from their homes and communities is decreasing. In addition, the number of children in the permanent custody of the Director has decreased by over 37%, from 244 to 152 individuals since 2008-09.

While these trends are moving in the right direction, we recognize there is still more work to do. Building on the progress we have already made through the implementation of the Building Stronger Families Action Plan, everyone working in CFS is committed to learning from the internal and Auditor General audits and working together to continue to implement changes to make measurable improvements to our standard of care for children and families.

Thank you.

Glen Abernethy
Minister of Health and Social Services

c. Mr. Tim Mercer
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. David Hastings
Legislative Coordinator, Executive