



NOV 14 2018

MS. JULIE GREEN
MLA, YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

Oral Question 436-18(3): Family Violence Crisis Funding

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on October 24, 2018 regarding Family Violence Crisis Funding.

The Department of Health and Social Services (Department) has received a copy of 1985 Report from the Task Force on Spousal Assault. The recommendations and insights the Task Force made are currently being reviewed, and the Department will look for ways to incorporate these recommendations into our ongoing work to address family violence. In the meantime, the Cabinet Social Envelope Committee has already formed an Interdepartmental Family Violence Working Group, which includes representatives from the Department of Justice; Health and Social Services; NWT Housing Corporation; Education, Culture and Employment; and Executive and Indigenous Affairs. This working group is tasked with developing a comprehensive approach to addressing family violence. We recognize there are many stakeholders who can help inform our actions and approach, and this work will include strategic consultation outside of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

As I discussed in the House, the Department provides \$2.9 million in annual funding for family violence shelters, as well as \$477,000 that supports other initiatives to address family violence, such as awareness campaigns and regional protocol teams for non-shelter regions. In 2017/18, the Department engaged in a zero-based budget exercise to inform a funding model for the shelters. This exercise was conducted by looking at the number of staff that are required to deliver services based upon the draft Shelter Standards developed by the Department. The results of this work indicated a need for additional funding to support the shelters. Given these results, we will look for ways we can provide additional funding through the business planning process.

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