



JUL 10 2018

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

Oral Question 340-18(3):
South Mackenzie Correctional Centre Therapeutic Model

On May 31, 2018, you asked a question in the Legislative Assembly regarding a therapeutic model for the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre (SMCC). Specifically you enquired about progress to date and future timelines.

Timelines for the establishment of the proposed therapeutic community cannot yet be established due to decisions being required as part of the corporate capital and business planning processes. Planning for a therapeutic model at SMCC however is ongoing.

Since the issue first came to my attention, I have directed that options for a therapeutic community for the SMCC be fully researched and costed. Progress to date includes the completion of site visits to the Guthrie Therapeutic Community in British Columbia by Department of Justice senior management, and SMCC facility management and other key staff. Conversations have been held with officials at the Nanaimo Correctional Centre and with inmates who currently participate in the Guthrie Therapeutic Community at the centre.

The Department of Justice has also established an interdepartmental steering committee with the Department of Health and Social Services to oversee this initiative. This committee has met to examine the feasibility of implementing a therapeutic community model for addictions treatment at the SMCC, and will continue to meet as planning proceeds.

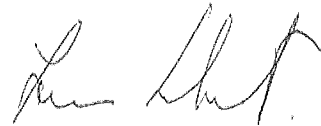
Research and planning for a therapeutic community fits in well with work already underway in the Department for the development of culturally based Pre-Treatment Healing and Traditional Addictions programs. Curriculum design by an external expert consultant is currently slated for completion in late 2018. These programs will be implemented in the current program delivery structure at the SMCC, and could eventually become the cornerstone of a 'made in the North' therapeutic community model for NWT offenders.

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A preliminary costing analysis has been completed for the security upgrades that would be required to enhance security at the SMCC to an appropriate level for the operation of a therapeutic community. The Department has further determined that the SMCC currently has the staffing and resources required to support this model, including management, security, case management and program staff. Additional training in philosophy and approaches would however be required for a therapeutic community to be fully implemented.

The Department of Justice continues to look for effective and innovative approaches in programming to meet the underlying needs of offenders in the NWT.

Thank you for your interest in a therapeutic community at the SMCC.



Louis Sebert
Minister of Justice

c Mr. Glen Abernethy,
Minister of Health and Social Services

Mr. Tim Mercer,
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. Martin Goldney,
Deputy Minister, Justice

Mr. David Hastings,
Legislative Coordinator