



NOV 16 2017

MS. JULIE GREEN
MLA, YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

Oral Question 12-18(3): North Slave Correctional Complex Inmate Concerns

On October 18, 2017 you asked questions in the Legislative Assembly about the inmate complaints process currently in place in Northwest Territories correctional facilities and the possibility of implementing a third party complaints process. I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with additional information.

The current *Corrections Act* includes provisions for ensuring inmates are aware of the rules and processes relating to making a complaint. The Deputy Warden and/or Warden meets with the Inmate Advisory Committee at least monthly, the most recent meeting was held on October 9, 2017 and the next meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2017. This is an opportunity for inmates to raise concerns. There are grievance procedures in which an inmate may address his or her complaint directly to the Warden, Director, Assistant Deputy Minister and Deputy Minister. Inmates also can write to their MLA or Minister as well as make complaints through their lawyer.

The use of an external third party complaint process is currently not available in the NWT and is not common in provincial/territorial Correctional Services in Canada, with the exception of Yukon and British Columbia where they have independent complaints systems. The Northwest Territories' *Corrections Act* and regulations are currently in the process of being modernized to recognize corrections "best practices" in Canada as well as the United Nations "Mandela Rules". I have instructed Departmental staff to ensure that options for a third party complaint process are considered during the work on the *Corrections Act* and regulations.

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