



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

FEB - 1 2018

**Oral Question 819-18(2) Yellowknife Airport Hours of Operation**

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on September 19, 2017 regarding liabilities issues with the hours of operations of the Yellowknife Airport that currently sees it closed to the public between the hours of 00:30 and 04:00.

Public facilities such as the Yellowknife Airport are required to provide services consistent with their service mandate, and must provide appropriate levels of safety and security when open to the public. As previously stated in my correspondence to you in response to Oral Question 814-18(2), dated July 27, 2017, the Yellowknife Airport's hours of operation are driven by the arrivals and departures schedule established by air carriers, and contingent upon security coverage. Outside of those hours, the Government of the Northwest Territories does not have the duty to provide safe accommodations for passengers.

The Government of the Northwest Territories seeks to operate the Airport as efficiently as possible and, therefore, security staff is only deployed to cover the hours during which the Airport is open to accommodate incoming and outgoing flights. The cost of adding two additional security guards for the four hours daily when the Yellowknife Airport is closed is beyond the current security budget and is not offset by revenues.

However, as also stated in the aforementioned correspondence, INF aims to develop marketing efforts to promote additional flights to Yellowknife as part of the Airport Evolution initiative. Should these efforts be successful, it may result in an expansion of the Airport's operating hours.

Thank you.

Wally Schumann  
Minister  
Infrastructure

- c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly  
Legislative Coordinator, Executive and Indigenous Affairs