



December 14, 2020

JACKSON LAFFERTY  
MLA, MONFwi

**Oral Question 475-19(2) RCMP Detachment in Monfwi**

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Questions you raised on November 04, 2020, regarding the possibility of moving the existing Whatì RCMP Detachment to Gametì. I committed to assessing whether such a move is possible, what options are available and to keep you updated on progress.

The Whatì Detachment is currently scheduled for replacement with construction anticipated to begin in June 2021. The Department of Justice (Justice) and the RCMP requested information from the Department of Infrastructure (Infrastructure) with respect to your request. Infrastructure advised that based on a visual review of the building, relocating the Whatì Detachment is likely possible. A high level (Class X) estimate of the cost associated with moving the detachment from Whatì to Gametì would be approximately \$140,000. This estimate includes transportation, power connection, foundation, carpentry, electrical and mechanical trades, water and sewage disconnection and reconnection, boiler reinstallation and a 15 percent contingency.

Further to the above estimate, a building condition assessment would need to be completed to assess the current building condition, the need for any repairs or renovations, and code compliance. The RCMP is supportive of undertaking the necessary assessments and has committed to review their building surplus processes to determine if the Whatì Detachment ownership can be transferred and what steps would be needed to facilitate this. I have directed Justice to support the RCMP in carrying out the required assessments, to look at the alternative options to address the community concerns with respect to the holding of prisoners in Gametì and to determine the costs associated with each option.

I did want to clarify that if moving the existing detachment is determined to be viable and is supported by the Federal Government following completion of assessments, that any such move would not be possible in the short-term. Firstly, the new Whatì detachment would need to be ready for occupancy before starting the process of shutting down the existing detachment. Secondly, Infrastructure advises that it would take approximately one year, following the building shutdown to adequately prepare the building to be moved. Based on this information the building would likely not be ready to be moved until later in 2023.

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I would welcome a meeting with you, the Chief of Gametì, the Tłıchǫ Government and the RCMP to further discuss the community's interest in pursuing the transfer of ownership of the existing Whatì detachment once decommissioned.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.J. Simpson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

R.J. Simpson  
Minister, Justice

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