



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

JUL 12 2016

**Oral Question 279-18(2) Assessment of "A New Day" Men's Healing Program**

On June 27, 2016 you asked questions in the Legislative Assembly about the review of the pilot "A New Day" program in Yellowknife, and the potential need for adjustments.

The pilot is testing a model developed in partnership with the Coalition Against Family Violence during the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly. Men meet in small groups for two hours per week for 20-weeks, and follow a curriculum based in narrative therapy. Since the pilot in Yellowknife began in 2012, 29 men have joined groups and seven have completed the program. An additional three men have completed all sessions individually (without joining groups). The seventh and final group is expected to begin this summer. Total costs paid to contractors to date to deliver the test phase are \$432,749.88 to the Tree of Peace and \$401,905.43 to the Healing Drum.

The Executive Director of the YWCA has indicated that the Coalition Against Family Violence supports evidence-based decision-making. It is not their desire to have the Men's Program continue simply because it currently exists. The Coalition is participating in the evaluation of the Men's Program and has repeatedly confirmed its commitment to rigor in the process to ensure decisions about long-term funding are based on evidence of what works.

The weekly two-hour group meetings in Yellowknife will end by contract on December 31, 2016. All other counseling and healing programs will continue, including the community counseling program and psychological services offered by Health and Social Services Authorities. The Department of Justice is in the process of determining what options are available to continue the Men's program should the evaluation find it to be ineffective. The Department of Justice will continue to provide the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court and its associated group counseling program to residents of Yellowknife, Behchoko, Hay River and nearby communities. Healing programs will continue to be provided in all NWT correctional facilities.

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The 18<sup>th</sup> Assembly's mandate includes continued support for a healing program for men who use violence in intimate relationships. The evaluation will help the GNWT to determine the most appropriate format for men's healing programs, the best way to deliver them in communities, and how to make the most efficient use of GNWT staff in all regions. If contracted services are required, the GNWT will follow standard contracting processes to request bids from interested proponents.

Thank you.



Louis Sebert  
Minister of Justice

c Honourable Glen Abernethy  
Minister, Health and Social Services

Mr. Tim Mercer, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. Martin Goldney, Deputy Minister of Justice

Mr. David Hastings, Legislative Coordinator