



MR. FREDERICK BLAKE
 MLA, MACKENZIE DELTA

OQ 868-17(5) RCMP Presence in Tsiigehtchic

SEP 2 2015

On June 4, 2015, you asked questions in the Legislative Assembly about ongoing policing issues in Tsiigehtchic, in particular the concerns related to accommodation of RCMP members on patrol overnight in the community.

As you know the community of Tsiigehtchic receives policing services from the Fort McPherson detachment. In response to community concerns the RCMP in Fort McPherson have made efforts to increase patrols into the community. During the 2014 calendar year 97 patrols took place to the community in addition to urgent calls for service. Between January and April 2015 there were 21 patrols. The RCMP had also made plans to increase the police presence in Tsiigehtchic by sending officers to spend two days (one night) per week into the community once suitable accommodation is made available to the officers.

I am pleased to report, that after considering a number of options for housing, a solution is in sight. The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is in the process of installing a two-bedroom portable unit and will allow the RCMP to use it for overnight accommodation for the members on patrol. We expect the installation to be completed by the fall of 2015. The RCMP will pay rent for the housing unit.

The RCMP Detachment Commander in Fort MacPherson has kept the Tsiigehtchic community Senior Administrative Officer (SAO) fully up-to-date with regards to the accommodation plan for the members. In the meantime, the RCMP will work with the community to plan patrol durations and activities during patrols.

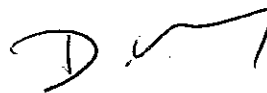
In your oral question you had also asked if the Department of Justice could work with the Department of Health and Social Services to see if the RCMP, similar to the arrangement for nurses, could spend time in the community during breakup or freeze-up. The Department of Justice has discussed with the Department of Health and Social Services the operational requirements of stationing a nurse in Tsiigehtchic temporarily and on a seasonal basis. These postings are for between four to eight weeks (typically six weeks), twice a year during freeze-up and break-up in Tsiigehtchic, while the exact

.../2

dates change every year based on weather conditions. Although an interesting suggestion, at this time the RCMP lacks the operational resources to station members in the community for such an extended period of time and regular patrols remain the most feasible option for providing policing services to the community.

The Department of Justice is committed to the safety of the residents of Tsiigehtchic and will continue to work with the RCMP and community leadership on matters of public safety, including the ongoing development of community policing priorities and action plans.

Sincerely,



David Ramsay

- c Honourable Robert C. McLeod
Minister Responsible for NWT HC

- Honourable Glen Abernethy
Minister H&SS

- Members of the Legislative Assembly

- Mr. Tim Mercer
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

- Ms. Sylvia Haener
Deputy Minister, Justice

- Mr. David Hastings
Legislative Coordinator

- Chief Superintendent Ron Smith
Commanding Officer, RCMP "G" Division