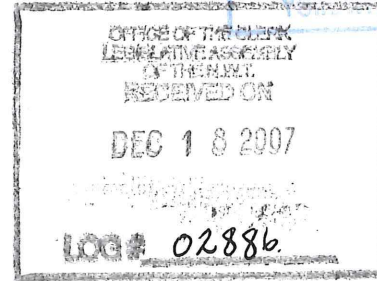




Northwest Territories Minister of Justice



DEC 18 2007

- ① Nated Jan 13/08
- ② for tabling - Feb
- ③ Copy Speaker. *Jm*

MR. TIM MERCER, CLERK  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**Petition 1-16(1) Illegal Activity in Public Housing in Hay River**

Attached is the response to Petition 1- 16(1), which was presented to the House on October 19, 2007 by the Member for Hay River North, the Honourable Paul Delorey.

This is a joint response prepared in cooperation with the Minister Responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, the Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger.

Jackson Lafferty

Attachment

c. Mr. Kevin O'Keefe  
Legislative Coordinator

Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger  
Minister Responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation

Tabled  
Doc  
04-16(2)  
c.1

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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Petition tabled by Mr. Paul Delorey on October 19, 2007

Response by the Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger  
Minister Responsible for the Northwest  
Territories Housing Corporation

Honourable Jackson Lafferty  
Minister of Justice

### Illegal Activity in Public Housing in Hay River

The death of Constable Christopher Worden has shaken all of us. We agree that more needs to be done to address problems in our communities that arise from the abuse of drugs and alcohol.

The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWTHC) and the Department of Justice are examining options to deal more effectively with illegal activity in public housing.

Currently, the *Residential Tenancies Act* (RTA) sets out the rights and obligations of landlords and tenants in both public and private housing. Under this Act, a tenancy can be terminated if the Rental Officer determines that a tenant carried on criminal acts or permitted someone else to carry on criminal acts in the rental unit, and that this activity had an adverse affect on the landlord or other tenants. Criminal activity in this section has been interpreted to mean illegal activity.

Current tenancy agreements prepared by the NWTHC and used by Local Housing Organizations (LHOs) reflect this section of the RTA:

*"If a Tenant or an occupant of the premises is boot-legging or trafficking in an illicit substance, or conspiring or attempting or aiding, abetting or counseling another person to bootleg or to traffic in an illicit substance in the rental premises or the residential complex, then this will be cause for terminating this agreement."*

In August 2007, the Department of Justice tabled draft amendments to the RTA. Included in the draft bill were amendments to strengthen the provisions of the RTA dealing with illegal activities. These proposed changes would make it clearer for both landlords and tenants that illegal activities of any kind are a breach of a tenant's obligations. The Department of Justice is considering further changes to the Act to make it easier for landlords, like the Hay River Housing Authority, to address illegal activity in their housing units. If changes are made to the RTA they would be reflected in leases prepared by the NWTHC and used by LHOs.

The Department of Justice will also look at other legislative options for making our communities safer.