



Royal
Canadian
Mounted
Police

Gendarmerie
royale
du
Canada

Officer in Charge
Criminal Operations
Bag 5000
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2R3

Ms. Shirley Kemeys-Jones
Assistant Deputy Minister
Department of Justice
Government of the Northwest Territories
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 67-15(3) TABLED ON OCT 15 2004
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August 11, 2004

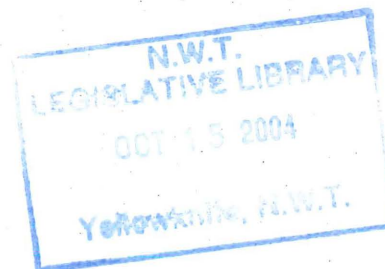
Dear Ms. Kemeys-Jones:

I am writing in response to a request from your department earlier this year for the RCMP "G" Division to respond to concerns raised by MLA Kevin Menicoche concerning a missing person investigation at Willow Lake. In the noted incident, the RCMP at Fort Simpson were notified on a Sunday morning of a missing woman in the Willow Lake area but by late that evening when the lady was found by local residents, it was reported by the MLA that the police still had not responded to the incident.

Staff Sergeant Bob Gray, South District Commander out of Hay River was assigned the responsibility for reviewing the actions of the RCMP in this matter. After determining what had occurred, Staff Gray and Constable Wes Heron of the Fort Simpson Detachment met with MLA Menicoche on April 1, 2004 to explain to the MLA our findings. Although there were some logistical challenges for the RCMP at Fort Simpson in dealing with this matter, overall it was agreed that the detachment members involved had not properly followed RCMP policy as it relates to missing persons. MLA Menicoche was advised that this matter would be addressed with the NCO i/c Fort Simpson Detachment and all members of this detachment to ensure that there was no recurrence in the future.

Additionally, the protocol for activating the use of the DND Rangers was discussed with the MLA and it was noted that all requests for this service must go through the Canadian Forces Northern Area command and there is a need to pay for their services when used. This is not to say that they cannot be called upon to assist in cases like this, just that there is a formal process for doing so and the need for someone to pay for their services after the fact.

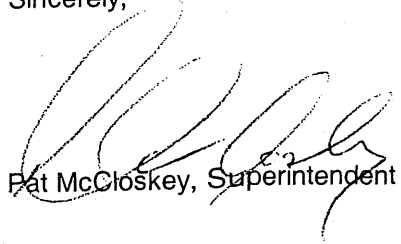
And finally, Sgt. Winters, NCO i/c Fort Simpson Detachment has personally visited Willow Lake and met with the lady who had been reported missing. Although the lady now advises that she was not lost at all but rather was staying away from the community due to an argument she had with a family member, clearly it is admitted that the detachment should have immediately sent an investigator to the community to gather information on exactly what was happening. Once that was done, if required, additional resources could have been called upon to assist with the investigation.



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In conclusion, I am satisfied that the matter raised by MLA Menicoche has been appropriately addressed and a lesson has been learned by the members of Fort Simpson Detachment. I would like to thank MLA Menicoche and you for bringing this matter to my attention and I trust that our response in the future to a missing person report will be as per our existing policy, which requires an immediate investigation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat McCloskey', written over the typed name.

Pat McCloskey, Superintendent