



Government of
Northwest Territories

June 06, 2024

ROBERT HAWKINS
MLA, YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

Oral Question 187-20(1): Costs to Access Land Titles and Red-Tape Reduction

This letter is in response to the Oral Question you raised on May 27, 2024, regarding red tape reduction and fees for citizens to access land titles. Specifically, you asked for information on the number of citizens (excluding corporate and legal searches) that have paid a fee to access documents from the Land Titles Office.

As mentioned in my response in the House, the Land Titles Office is a user-paid system and not funded from general taxation revenue. Almost all the fees are processed automatically and electronically with no human intervention. Since May 2022 there have been 47,907 land title searches conducted, however the system does not have a means to track the number of individuals who have searched for information related to their own land titles.

The search fees were introduced to offset the cost of developing the electronic system that allows members of the public to search land titles at any time and at any place. Prior to that the Registry was free to search, but a member of the public had to be physically present in the Office or mail/fax their inquiry and be charged fax and photocopy fees. Now searches are subject to a small fee, but can be done online, and copies can be produced free of charge at greater convenience to the public.

As part of the Government's Fiscal Sustainability Strategy, some fees related to Legal Registries are proposed to be increased but notably the fees for land title searches are not among these.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.J. Simpson'.

R.J. Simpson
Minister, Justice

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