

JULIE GREEN—MLA YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE
Legislation Drafters to Clear Backlog
Committee of the Whole—2018-2019 Operating Budget Review
Dept. of Justice—March 6, 2018

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think this is the right place to discuss the legislative backlog that we talked about quite a bit in the fall. Could the Minister tell us how the department is getting on top of rolling out the legislation that we're all so anxious to see? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Minister.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you. I don't think the backlog really has been caused by the lack of drafters of the legislation, but I'll turn it over to Mr. Goldney, perhaps, to expand on that.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Mr. Goldney.

MR. GOLDNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We are very mindful of the need to move legislation forward as quickly as it needs to. The role that the Department of Justice plays is of course in the development of that and is by providing the drafting services. Often, there is a requirement for not only our department but all departments to develop the legislative proposal and to consider some fairly significant policy questions. That is where we tend to see more time often required than might be preferred, but we are very mindful of the need. Once a legislative proposal is developed, then drafting instructions can be provided to ensure that we have departments adequately supported to move that along as quickly as possible. There are times when we might feel that compression, but we do have the ability to look for contracted services if the need arises. Right now, we recognize that there is a lot of work coming, and we are preparing for it. We don't anticipate there being a delay as a result of a lack of horsepower in our legislative division. Thank you, Mr. Chair.