

JULIE GREEN—MLA YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE
RCMP Training for Historical Cases Review
Committee of the Whole—2018-2019 Operating Budget Review
Dept. of Justice—March 6, 2018

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, just before Christmas, the RCMP announced at the national level that they were going to expand their review of closed sexual assault cases and increase training to address gaps in police knowledge of consent. I'm wondering if the Minister can tell us what the local implications, NWT implications, are of these initiatives? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Of course, the RCMP does provide annual training to all Members, training to Members to improve their interviewing skills in complex cases such as sexual assault complaints. That is going on generally. I understand that, as of last year, April, 119 members of G division had completed a specialized investigative interview course, and, in addition to that, 24 have completed additional training in investigating child sexual assaults. This is in addition to the RCMP's training program for cadets in Regina, which includes 36 classes dedicated to investigating sexual assault and four classes related to child sexual abuse. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the training I'm referencing is training in understanding the evidence provided by witnesses, for example statements that are inconsistent or incomplete, that may be the result of the trauma that the victim has experienced, so it's more about the practice of understanding the evidence and, particularly, understanding consent case law. Does the Minister know whether this training which the RCMP said would be offered across the country has been offered here, yet? Thank you.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Obviously, that would be an important part of the training. I am not sure whether that specific training has been offered here, yet. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would appreciate hearing from the Minister about this, whether the training has been scheduled or has already been delivered in the NWT on consent case law. Further, I'd be interested to know whether the expanded review of closed sexual assault cases will be implemented here in the NWT as well. Thank you.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think I should discuss these matters with the commanding officer and get back to committee. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you. I appreciate the Minister following up on these questions and getting back to committee. Those are all my questions. Thank you.