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MS. JULIE GREEN
MLA, YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

**Oral Question 425-18(3):
Apprehension and Detention of Sexual Assault Victim by RCMP**

On October 23, 2018, you asked questions in the Legislative Assembly about how the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) responds to victims of sexual assault.

I have met with the Commanding Officer of "G" Division, Chief Superintendent Jamie Zettler, who assured me that the RCMP completes thorough reviews of sexual assault investigations with the aim of determining how the investigation unfolded; what options were available and offered to the victim; and to identify every possible area for improvement. He was clear that RCMP members will continue to look for all options to ensure the safety of victims.

The RCMP's national action plan, *The Way Forward: The RCMP's Sexual Assault Review and Victim Support Action Plan* was released in December 2017 and is the result of consultation across the country, including in-person discussions with non-government organizations in Yellowknife. The RCMP has already implemented a number of recommendations from that report, and has increased training both locally and nationally. The training includes Best Practices for Sexual Assault Investigations, Consent Law and Common Sexual Assault Myths, along with online courses such as Trauma Informed Investigations.

Furthermore, I can confirm that the Department of Justice and the RCMP are actively exploring alternative options for victims to report sexual assault, such as third party reporting, as well as the potential for external review committees. This work will be in collaboration with non-government organizations, and will include the use of best practices and evidence-informed principles.

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Individuals who have been sexually assaulted experience significant barriers talking about and reporting what happened to them to police. Ensuring that the policies and training provided to RCMP members acknowledge these challenges while, at the same time, allow for a thorough investigation, is paramount. The GNWT will continue to work with all of our partners to make improvements to the supports available to victims of crime to ensure we protect their dignity and their right to be treated with respect.

If you require further information, please contact my office.



Louis Sebert
Minister of Justice

- c Mr. Tim Mercer, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
- Mr. Martin Goldney, Deputy Minister, Justice
- Mr. David Hastings, Legislative Coordinator