



MS. JULIE GREEN
MLA, YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

NOV - 6 2018

Oral Question 467-18(3) Addressing Rental Office Delays

On October 29, 2018, you asked questions in the Legislative Assembly about issues affecting the experience of clients at the NWT Rental Office.

Modernizing Court Forms

Both the Department of Justice and the judiciary are aware of the need to improve and modernize the content of Court forms, and the options available for completing and filing the forms and associated documents.

On November 1, 2018 a senior legislative counsel in Legislation Division commenced a one year assignment as a dedicated legal officer to the Supreme Court charged with – among other tasks to be assigned by the Chief Justice – a comprehensive review of the *Rules of the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories*, including the forms set out in Schedule B to the Rules. This review will consider not only the content of the forms, but also how those forms can be made more accessible to users and the general public.

Amending the *Residential Tenancies Act*

The Department of Justice has been reviewing the 2017/18 Report of the Rental Officer, including the recommendation that the *Residential Tenancies Act* be amended to provide that the preparation of written reasons for decision be undertaken at the discretion of the Rental Officer.

As you are aware, there is a significant number of legislative initiatives that have been identified for advancement during the remainder of the 18th Assembly. It is however, our hope that there will be support that will allow the Department to advance several small amendments to the *Residential Tenancies Act*, including making preparation of written decisions discretionary, during the life of this Assembly.

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Rental Office – Deputy Rental Officer

You had also asked if I could commit to providing more staff at the Rental Office. As indicated, a contract for a second deputy rental officer is being finalized. It is anticipated that the new officer will commence service later this month. 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