

ORAL QUESTION—JULIE GREEN, MLA YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

QUESTION 773-18(3): THIRD-PARTY SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORTING

June 4, 2019

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice. In the last couple of years, I have talked about third-party reporting of sexual assaults. In this situation, the victim reports the assault and provides the information to a trained support worker who likely works for a non-profit. She then has a period of time to consider making a formal complaint to the RCMP. In October, and then again in February, the Minister said that his officials and the RCMP are exploring this option. What is the result? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Justice.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Member opposite for the question. The Department of Justice, Community Justice and Policing, and RCMP have accepted a proposal to implement third-party reporting of sexual assaults, as well as advocate review of sexual assault files closed without change. We have made progress in this very important matter. We do recognize this as a very serious issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: That is good news. I am pleased to hear that there has been this advance. Can the Minister at all elaborate on what he means by "accepted a proposal"? What kind of a proposal, and from whom?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: I thank the Member opposite again for her question. I do know that the stakeholder and public engagement is scheduled for June 11th and 12th in Yellowknife, and advocates have been invited to attend from across the NWT. That is the next step that we are taking very shortly.

MS. GREEN: I appreciate the answer. Can I just clarify that the public engagement is around the concept of third-party reporting? Is that what the Minister is saying?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, I believe that to be the case. I will check on that, and if that is not the correct information, then I will certainly supply it to the Member opposite.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MS. GREEN: Thank you to the Minister. I wonder if the Minister could tell us about the steps following on from the public engagement. Is it likely that this third-party reporting will be in place in the life of this Assembly? Thank you.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Of course, we don't have much time left, so I am not certain whether I can make that commitment, but as I say, we are looking forward to this public engagement, which will give us direction to take next steps, I am sure. Thank you.