



AUG 22 2019

MS. JULIE GREEN  
 MLA, YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

**Oral Question 787-18(3): New Services in Downtown Yellowknife**

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on August 12, 2019 regarding New Services in Downtown Yellowknife.

As discussed in the house, the Community Safety Patrol began as planned on July 22, 2019. The program is doing well, with only one incident having occurred in the first week due to a communications issue. This issue has since been addressed and resolved. The Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) is working closely with the Northwest Territories Disabilities Council to collect statistics and feedback to evaluate if the program is making the intended positive impact for neighbours, community members and clients. The initiative will continue to be discussed at the NTHSSA’s Sobering Centre touch-point meetings every 6 weeks. This will afford the NTHSSA the opportunity to identify issues and improve the program based on feedback from neighbours and stakeholders.

In addition, the Department of Health and Social Services (the Department) received data from the Department of Justice (DOJ) regarding proactive patrols in the downtown core and in the day shelter area, as well as incidences of alcohol seizure in response to public consumption. The following is a breakdown of the period between January 2019 and June 2019:

	Jan.	Feb.	March	Apr.	May	June
Downtown Core	37	31	39	47	63	41
Day Shelter	3	13	20	54	30	19
Alcohol Pour/Seize	15	7	37	76	79	66

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The Department will continue to work with the NTHSSA and other stakeholders, including DOJ, the RCMP and the City of Yellowknife, to provide services to clients while ensuring a safe and inclusive environment for all parties.

Thank you.



Glen Abernethy  
Minister of Health and Social Services

c Mr. Tim Mercer  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. David Hastings  
Legislative Coordinator, Executive