



MAR 01 2018

MR. R.J. SIMPSON
MLA, HAY RIVER NORTH

Oral Question 96-18(3): Gangs in Correctional Centres in the NWT

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on February 13, 2018, regarding gangs in correctional centres in the Northwest Territories (NWT). I can advise that the Department of Justice does not have a written policy specific to gang awareness. I would, however, like to provide you with some additional information about practices employed within NWT correctional facilities to address this issue.

The Corrections Service works closely with law enforcement agencies, along with provincial, territorial and federal partners, to develop best practices in the management of gangs, organized groups, and their influence in correctional facilities. These, in turn, are reflected in the internal security strategies that are utilized in the management of inmates within NWT facilities. Through regular training in dynamic/direct supervision of inmates, staff are provided with relevant skills to recognize and respond to gang related incidents.

In addition, the issue of gang awareness is addressed in the Corrections Northern Recruitment Training Program. Recruits gain an understanding of groups that may be operating in the NWT, how they can affect the correctional environment, organization of gangs and recruitment techniques.

Thank you.

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