



October 26, 2020

MS. JULIE GREEN
MLA, YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

Oral Question 242-19(2) Enforcement of Chief Public Health Officer's Orders in Apartment Buildings

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on May 27, 2020, regarding Enforcement of the Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO)'s Orders in Apartment Buildings.

The primary purpose of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Compliance and Enforcement Taskforce (CET) is to educate and provide information to NWT residents, to correct behaviour where necessary through ticketing and fines, and to ensure the protection of public health and reduce the greater public risk presented by COVID-19. Any resident who has credible, specific complaints regarding the enforcement of the CPHO's orders is asked to email protectnwt@gov.nt.ca or call 1-833-378-8297, or the 8-1-1 Service NWT COVID-19 support line to be redirected.

The City of Yellowknife Municipal Enforcement division enforces the City's Noise By-Law No. 3537 which includes a number of prohibited noisy or disturbing activities such as house parties during the local quiet time of 11:00 pm to 7:00 am. Residents are directed to call the Municipal Enforcement general inquiries line at 920-5630 or 920-2737 to report violations after office hours. The RCMP enforces noise complaints outside of Municipal Enforcement coverage. Notifying the RCMP or municipal enforcement is the most appropriate action in the case of large and disruptive gatherings where other illegal activities are also occurring, rather than notifying the CET Taskforce. A CET Taskforce member could be called upon to accompany RCMP and/or local enforcement for subsequent follow up.

As committed in the House, officials with the COVID Secretariat have discussed the matter with the Minister of Justice and have met with the RCMP to manage expectations in their areas of jurisdiction for the enforcement of large groups of persons gathering in apartment buildings across Yellowknife.

An important element of the meeting was to facilitate discussion between the enforcement bodies, including Municipal Enforcement Division, with private landlords and local housing authorities where relevant to develop a plan to address private parties and large gatherings as we move further into Phase Two of the Emerging Wisely plan for the NWT.

I have also brought these considerations forward for discussion as Chair of the COVID-19 Committee of Cabinet.

With the creation of the COVID-19 Secretariat, and my ongoing role in pandemic response, I will continue to work with my colleague, Minister R.J. Simpson, in his responsibility for the RCMP under the Department of Justice, and Minister Paulie Chinna, in her role with Municipal and Community Affairs, to work together on issues such as this one, but also to promote clear messaging in terms of who residents should contact when they have concerns about enforcement of the CPHO's orders.


Caroline Cochrane
Premier

- c. Honourable Paulie Chinna
Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs

- Honourable R.J. Simpson
Minister of Justice

- Ms. Eleanor Young
Deputy Minister, Municipal and Community Affairs

- Ms. Charlene Doolittle
Deputy Minister, Justice

- Mr. Tim Mercer
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

- Mr. David Hastings
Legislative Coordinator
Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs