



OCT 26 2016

MR. KIERON TESTART
MLA, KAM LAKE

Oral Question 312-18(2): Managed Alcohol Programs

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on October 13, 2016 regarding Managed Alcohol Programs.

As I mentioned in the House, we are working to implement a sobering centre in Yellowknife. This is one part of our greater strategy to address the issue of addictions in Yellowknife and across the Northwest Territories. There is no single solution to the issue of addictions in the NWT, and so we are developing a comprehensive Addictions Recovery Action Plan, as part of our larger Mental Health and Addictions Strategic Framework.

As part of this work, the Department of Health and Social Services is researching harm reduction approaches to addictions, including Managed Alcohol Programs, and through this research we will determine the feasibility of offering this type of program co-located within a sobering centre, or as a stand-alone program. We will continue to research different harm-reduction models and best practices, and come up with options for the delivery of a wide range of services for residents, as part of our Addictions Recovery Action Plan.

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