



DEC 05 2016

MS. JULIE GREEN
MLA, YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

Oral Question 448-18(2): Implementation of Recommendations to Improve Responses to Sexual Violence

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on November 2, 2016 regarding the Implementation of Recommendations to Improve Responses to Sexual Violence.

In the Northwest Territories, Sexual Assault Evidence Kits (Kits) are supplied to NWT health centres by the RCMP. These Kits are either available in health centres, or acquired as needed from the RCMP. If a Kit cannot be obtained, the survivor of sexual assault will be urgently transferred to the nearest health facility to have one completed.

There are policies and clinical practice guidelines currently in place to support Community Health Nurses in conducting Sexual Assault Evidence Kits. The Department of Health and Social Services (Department) is currently working on Policy and Guidelines for Health Professionals Providing Care to Survivors of Sexual Assault. This document will provide additional support to nurses who provide care to survivors of sexual assault, including how to correctly complete a Kit. It will also outline issues relating to consent, chain of custody, and procedures in both community and hospital settings. The Policy and Guidelines are expected to be completed by March 2017.

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As I stated in the House, we must all work together to break the stigma of sexual assault and get information out to the public. Thank you for raising this difficult issue and bringing the "Hush Hush No More – Sexual Assault in the NWT" Report to the floor. It is important to have discussions like this and get the message out there sexual assault in any form is never okay, and when it does occur in our communities, we respond effectively and with the appropriate supports.

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