



OCT 18 2018

MR. KIERON TESTART  
MLA, KAM LAKE

**Oral Question 281-18(3): Northwest Territories Youth Advisory Council**

During the May 24, 2018 sitting of the Legislative Assembly, I committed to work with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) to explore the potential of a youth advisory council for the Northwest Territories.

As part of the Youth Development Strategy, the department provides a range of youth related programs aimed at supporting leadership development, and to address youth related risks. Some examples of these programs include Youth Corps, Youth Ambassadors, Youth Centres initiative, Youth Contributions, the Regional Youth Sports Events program, and the Children and Youth Resiliency Program.

The Department recognizes the importance of engaging youth on a range of issues. In prior years, MACA has facilitated annual gatherings of Youth Centre staff to provide educational opportunities and to help address front line issues that staff may be facing. In 2017, MACA also worked with the Departments of Health and Social Services, Education Culture and Employment, and Justice to host the Back to the Trail youth conference. These are examples of youth related gatherings supported under the Youth Development Strategy.

The summary report and final evaluation of the Back to the Trail gathering has now been received. Looking forward to 2019-20, the Department has committed to review the Youth Development Strategy and the Back to the Trail report which will help to inform this review. As part of the review of this strategy, MACA will consider options for establishing a regular forum for youth engagement.

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