



KEVIN O'REILLY
MLA, FRAME LAKE

Oral Question 995-19(2): Maintenance Enforcement

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Questions you raised on March 07, 2022 regarding tracking and reporting undertaken by the Maintenance Enforcement Office as it relates to cross jurisdictional payments of child support.

The Northwest Territories (NWT) Maintenance Enforcement Program (MEP) does not specifically track or keep statistics on the length of time for cross jurisdictional support payments to be made. The NWT office receives Interjurisdictional Support Order payments from multiple reciprocating MEP offices every day. Once a payment is disbursed by those offices, they send a detailed report which breaks down the case files and the corresponding amount for each of those files. This triggers NWT Maintenance Enforcement to start tracking the incoming payments. Generally, they appear in the MEP trust account the very next business day. Every morning NWT Maintenance Enforcement applies those payments to the corresponding files and disburses payment to the support recipients that same day.

Some support recipients choose to have their support payments sent to them by cheque. Those cheques are signed and sent to the GNWT mailroom the same day and are then subject to internal mail, GNWT Mailroom and Canada Post processing and delivery times. NWT Maintenance Enforcement strongly encourages clients to receive payments via direct deposit. Those electronic payments are disbursed once, each business day. The MEP trust account is held with RBC Royal Bank. Payments being sent to other RBC clients generally arrive in one business day. Deposits being made to accounts with other banks generally take two to three business days to arrive.

Thank you for your questions and interest in this matter. If you require further information, please contact my office.

R.J. Simpson
Minister, Justice

- c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Deputy Minister, Justice
Legislative Coordinator, Executive and Indigenous Affairs