



May 4, 2020

MS. FRIEDA MARTSELOS
MLA, THEBACHA

Oral Question 190-19(2) Lack of Enforcement in Illegal Drug Trade

This is in follow-up to your oral question you raised on March 12, 2020, regarding the enforcement of the illegal drug trade in Fort Smith.

As Minister of Justice I have regular meetings with the Commanding Officer of RCMP G Division, as do officials from the Department of Justice. Drug enforcement in the Northwest Territories is regularly discussed between the Department and the RCMP. I can confirm that I have directed the Department to convey to the Commanding Officer the concerns that you have raised, and I am advised that the Commanding Officer understood the need for ongoing RCMP engagement with the residents of Fort Smith.

The Fort Smith detachment commander and the community leadership are currently in the process of developing their annual policing priorities for 2020-21. I expect that drug enforcement in the community will be discussed as part of this exercise.

As evidenced by the number of drug enforcement activities that have been undertaken throughout the Northwest Territories of late, I believe the RCMP takes the impact of drugs in all of our communities very seriously. These investigations take significant time and effort to develop, and any encouragement you can give your constituents to share what they know about the drug trade in their community is appreciated. The RCMP continues to emphasize the importance of every piece of information available, as even a small detail may help put a stronger investigation together.

.../2

Thank you for your continued interest in this very important subject. If you require further information, please contact my office.



Caroline Wawzonek
Minister of Justice

- c. Mr. Tim Mercer, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Ms. Charlene Doolittle, Deputy Minister, Justice
Mr. David Hastings, Legislative Coordinator