

Government of  
Northwest Territories

June 05, 2023

LESA SEMMLER  
MLA, INUVIK TWIN LAKES**Oral Question 1510-19(2): Searching for Frank Gruben**

This letter is in response to the Oral Question you raised on May 25, 2023 regarding the ongoing search for Frank Gruben. Specifically, you asked that I commit to contacting the Commanding Officer of the Northwest Territories to ensure that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in Fort Smith have all the resources they need to continue the investigation to bring Frank home. You also asked that I follow up with the RCMP on section 9 of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) National Inquiry Calls to Action regarding Policing Services.

As indicated in the House, although I cannot direct the RCMP, I can confirm that I have been in contact with the Commanding Officer of "G" Division and have relayed the concerns raised in the Legislative Assembly. I would also note that the RCMP work with communities to set policing priorities annually through consultation with community leaders. This process ensures community voices are heard and integrated into the policing services communities receive. The current design of policing priority setting processes are consistent with themes of reconciliation that have come from the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, and the Calls for Justice from the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry.

As I noted in the House, this is unimaginable, my thoughts are with everyone who has been impacted and I very much hope for a positive outcome.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.J. Simpson".

R.J. Simpson  
Minister, Justice

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