



MAR 01 2018

MS. JULIE GREEN
MLA, YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

Oral Question 84-18(3) Historical Case Unit Within the RCMP

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on February 12, 2018 regarding the establishment of a Historical Case Unit within the RCMP as proposed in the 2018-19 Main Estimates. I would like to provide you with some additional information about the Unit, and the expected timeline for its establishment.

The proposed Historical Case Unit would be responsible for organizing, cataloguing and investigating historical unsolved murdered and missing person cases in the Northwest Territories (NWT). These include unsolved homicides, suspicious deaths, missing persons and unidentified human remains. The Unit will be housed within the RCMP 'G' Division, and will include two RCMP members dedicated to these historical case files. Once the Legislative Assembly approves the 2018-19 Main Estimates, the RCMP will be given notification so they can create the new positions, identify suitable candidates and staff those positions. The positions could take six to eight months to staff - a typical timeframe for staffing new RCMP positions.

Currently, "G" Division has 63 open investigations involving 71 missing persons. In addition to those 63 files, there are eight unsolved homicides. Until the Historical Case Unit is established, these files will remain the responsibility of the six-member Major Crime Unit (MCU). Demands on the MCU have increased steadily over the last 10 years, making it difficult to provide dedicated resources to these files. It is important to note that these cases were fully investigated at the time of the occurrence, but the files have not progressed further. Moving these types of files forward can be time consuming, and activity on the files often includes ensuring that case documentation is migrated to current day standards in order to preserve the information. The additional resources proposed through the establishment of the Historical Case Unit will provide the RCMP with dedicated investigative support in this area.

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The RCMP have committed that they will provide updates to the Department of Justice on the progress of the Unit, and the Department of Justice/RCMP Joint Strategic Planning Committee is working together to determine the most appropriate measures to gauge success.

Building public trust and confidence in the RCMP has been a consistent theme in the Minister of Justice annual policing priorities, and dedicating resources to this priority will assist in building that trust and confidence.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Sebert', written in a cursive style.

Louis Sebert
Minister of Justice

- c. Mr. Tim Mercer, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
- Mr. Martin Goldney, Deputy Minister, Justice
- Mr. David Hastings, Legislative Coordinator