

LEGISLATIVE RETURN



SUBMITTED BY: Hon. Tracy-Anne McPhee

1. On April 20, 2017, Brad Cathers, Member for Lake Laberge

asked the following oral question at page(s) _____ of *Hansard*

submitted the following written question – WQ No. 13

gave notice of the following motion for the production of papers – MPP No. _____

RE: _____

OR

2. This legislative return relates to a matter outstanding from discussion related to:

on _____ at page(s) _____ of *Hansard*.

The response is as follows:

Attached is the letter provided in response to the same written question submitted by the Member for Lake Laberge on January 12, 2017.

May 1, 2017
Date

[Signature]
Signature



Office of the Minister
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

February 10, 2017

Brad Cathers
MLA – Lake Laberge
Yukon Legislative Assembly
Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

Dear Mr. Cathers:

RE: COMMUNITY SAFETY

Thank you for your written question No. 5 on January 12, 2017 in relation to the issue of property crime and our government's efforts to work with partners and stakeholders to reduce and prevent property crime and target drug trafficking.

RCMP

The Department of Justice, of course, works closely with the RCMP to reduce the incidence of crime and address the causes of crime in Yukon. The RCMP meet regularly with the Chamber of Commerce and community groups to discuss ways of preventing crime and in particular to decrease opportunities for crime.

Over the last two years the RCMP has responded effectively to the increase in property crime. A number of investigations have led to arrests and charges. While the RCMP cannot patrol and interdict all incidents of property crime, new resources for the RCMP watches, have enhanced the number of front line officers working in Whitehorse. The RCMP's intelligence led policing efforts focus on emerging crime hot spots have shown success over the last year and will be continued.

First Nations

The Department of Justice has entered into an agreement with Kwanlin Dun First Nation for a three-year pilot Security Funding Project which will build capacity within the First Nation in order to provide accessible, consistent, sustainable and culturally relevant justice services.

Prolific Offender Management

The Department of Justice, in collaboration with the RCMP and other partners, established the Prolific Offender Management program in 2011. The program focusses on 15-20 offenders who are responsible for a large percentage of crime, and often the most serious crime, in Whitehorse.

Community Safety Committee

The Community Safety Committee was launched in May 2015 with a mandate to engage a broad spectrum of service providers in a working-level dialogue on policing and public safety issues.



Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)

The Department of Justice supports complementary efforts to reduce the opportunities for crime such as Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) and will examine means of helping communities apply the principles of CPTED and take proactive measures.

Crime Stoppers

The alliance of agencies supporting the recent launch of the Yukon Community Crime Stoppers Association includes the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce and Association of Yukon Communities. Crime Stoppers provides the public a means of making an anonymous tip to report crime and serves as vehicle to report suspicious activity including property crime and drug trafficking so that the RCMP's enforcement efforts are further informed by community input.

Drug Trafficking

Using an ongoing joint planning processes, the Department of Justice will continue to engage the RCMP and our FPT partners in a review of existing strategies to combat drug trafficking in the territory and will examine initiatives such as our ongoing partnerships with the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Unit (SCAN) and other law enforcement partners, which can work in coordination with the RCMP's federal team.

Cannabis Legislation

The federal government has signaled its intentions to legalize and regulate cannabis in Canada. Department of Justice officials have been fully engaged in the federal consultation process to date. While the outcomes of the changes proposed are not yet known it is anticipated that they will have a significant negative impact on criminal involvement currently observed with the illicit drug trade. This in turn should be reflected in the number of drug charges in Yukon.

Yukon Police Council

The Yukon Police Council represents a vital link between our citizens and the RCMP and is a valuable and representative voice. In order to ensure issues impacting community safety across the territory, the Yukon Police Council will explore the ability to expand the number of communities it visits this year and build this increased community input into the strategic policing priorities communicated to the RCMP. Public feedback is currently being gathered to augment the Council's recommendations to the Minister of Justice.

Finally, to address property crime and to prevent the trajectory of young people towards criminal activity including trafficking of illicit drugs, the Department will continue to support efforts to address risks and needs of youth and young persons involved in the justice system and look to new initiatives and means of reducing their risk and seeing them achieve more positive outcomes in their development.

Yours truly,



Tracy-Anne McPhee
Minister of Justice and Attorney General