

Asked by:

Member for Monfwi

February 6, 2020

Indigenization of Prison Populations

In light of the alarming rates of incarceration that Indigenous people face in the Northwest Territories, I submit the following questions to the Minister of Justice:

1. In the past ten years, what programs and initiatives has the territorial government launched to keep Indigenous people out of jail, and what do the evaluations of those various programs and initiatives conclude about effectiveness of each;
2. What proportion of territorial prison staff are Indigenous, broken down by employment category, especially management, program delivery and guards;
3. What proportion of territorial prison staff is dedicated full time to counselling, vocational training and educational upgrading for inmates, and what share of the total correctional system appropriation is allocated for those purposes;
4. What has our correctional system done to enhance access to screening, diagnosis and treatment of offenders suffering Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, and similarly, what non-traditional approaches have our courts adopted for dealing with such offenders; and
5. What progress has the Minister's department made in response to the 18 separate "calls to action" contained in the federal Truth and Reconciliation Commission report relating to justice and correctional matters?