

**15<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly**  
**Third Session**  
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**Need For Residential Treatment Centres**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The subject of my Member's statement today is addictions. I have come at this addictions issue from a variety of different angles and today I have another one.

The North Slave Correctional Centre is located in the riding of Kam Lake. Being that Kam Lake is the riding I represent, I get to speak with many persons who are incarcerated at North Slave Correctional Centre. Just last spring, I was presented with a petition from the inmates in regard to the health services that were being provided at the centre. The Department of Justice made the necessary changes to the delivery of health services, and today I believe this came about because the inmates at the North Slave Correctional Centre spoke up about the situation.

Mr. Speaker, later today I will table a petition that has been signed by 98 inmates from North Slave Correctional Centre. The petition calls for the government to address the need for treatment centres being reopened here in the Northwest Territories. I would like to thank all the inmates that signed the petition, and especially the ones that I have spoken to personally.

I believe that no one really wants to be in jail and certainly there are many obvious reasons why people end up in jail, but a common denominator is often addictions to alcohol and drugs. The more that this government can put into being proactive in fighting addictions, the better off we will be and the less we will have to spend being reactive.

I have heard the Minister of Health and Social Services speak of the need to be working with community groups to look at getting some type of residential treatment centres reopened. These centres do not have to be government issue, multi-million dollar, cost overrun facilities. They only have to become a reality.

I believe it should be a collaborative effort between government and the interested community groups, and I look forward to watching closely to how this government will accomplish the goal of getting residential treatment centres reopened for addicts. We will have to pay attention to what our residents need to help them combat their addictions. If we don't, then we should start planning another jail because, Mr. Speaker, we will need it. Thank you.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear! Hear!