

15th Legislative Assembly

Third Session
Oct 13 - Oct 29, 2004

OCT 14, 2004

**Human Resource and Morale Concerns at the North Slave
Correctional Centre**

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues, for the opportunity to rise in the House today to speak about an issue that just does not seem to want to go away. The issue I'm referring to is the North Slave Correctional Centre.

Whether it's an inmate or an employee phoning me, it seems that issues surrounding the facility and its operation continue to pile up. I'll start firstly with staff morale at the centre. It is taking a continued pounding, even though last spring we had hoped that a change of scenery to a new building would help the state of mind of the employees.

Employee issues centre around such items as safety, security, fair hiring practices, and the government dragging its heels on the retroactive monies due and payable to many of the staff at the centre. I find it very interesting that last spring when I was questioning the Minister of Justice about concerns that were raised to me about staff morale and human resource concerns, he did not want to admit that there were some serious concerns at that centre.

Just recently, a full internal human resource review began at the centre. Perhaps now the Minister will admit changes have to be made. I'm very concerned about what this review will say and how recommendations flowing from it will be acted upon. If history repeats itself, I will be waiting a very, very long time to see anything from the Minister or his department on this review.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame, shame.

MR. RAMSAY: As many of you will recall, I had asked numerous questions about a health services audit that was conducted at the centre months ago. The reason the audit was initiated was the fact that I had received a petition signed by over 100 inmates at the centre about some very grave concerns they had about the way health services were being delivered at the North Slave Correctional Centre.

To this day, I still have not received even a watered down version or any other version of what that audit said, even though I've asked numerous times for it. What changes have been made -- and I would like to know this, too, and I'll ask questions at the appropriate time -- to address the concerns that were outlined in that audit, and where is the watered down version from the department that I was looking for?

Mr. Speaker, I certainly will have questions for the Minister at the appropriate time. Thank you.