



Northwest Territories Minister of Health and Social Services

MR. TIM MERCER  
CLERK OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**Response of Petition 7-16(5)**

Attached is the Response to Petition 7-16(5) tabled by Mr. Kevin Menicoche on May 13, 2010.

*Sandy Lee*  
Sandy Lee

Attachment

- c. Mr. Kevin O'Keefe  
Legislative Coordinator

① Noted July 12/10  
② Tabled in October  
*[Signature]*





# RESPONSE TO PETITION

No.

7-16(5)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Petition tabled by Mr. Kevin Menicoche on May 13, 2010

Response by the Honorable Sandy Lee  
Minister of Health and Social Services

## **Proposed Changes to Supplementary Health Benefits (SHB) Program**

This letter is in response to the Petition you tabled on May 13, 2010, regarding expansion of access to SHB and that the incremental cost to support the expansion be funded through the graduated territorial income tax.

As I announced in the House on May 18, 2010, a Joint Working Group (JWG) has been created to address the concerns raised and to finalize the SHB Program implementation. The JWG is composed of three regular Members and three Cabinet Ministers, including myself as Minister of Health and Social Services. In order to ensure an implementation date on or before November 1, 2010, JWG will report to Cabinet and the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning after their meetings in June.

The JWG will use the principles of consensus government to ensure that the final program is available to all residents of the Northwest Territories. The focus of the JWG will be defining personal and employer responsibilities around uninsured health care and third party insurance, ensuring that a safety net is created for residents who accrue high health care costs, and defining catastrophic coverage.

Expanding access to SHB for those in greatest need has been the priority of the Department of Health and Social Services. I look forward to working together to advance this important issue.

Thank you for continuing to voice the concerns of your constituents and for your ongoing interest in improving this program.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandy Lee". Below the signature, the name "Sandy Lee" is printed in a smaller font.

- c. Mr. Tim Mercer  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
  
- Mr. Kevin O'Keefe  
Legislative Coordinator, Executive