



OCT 06 2020

THE HONOURABLE JULIE GREEN  
MLA, YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

**Oral Question 313-19(2) Providing GNWT Staff  
Who Leave the Territory with Two Weeks Special Leave**

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on June 9, 2020 regarding leave provisions for Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) staff who leave the Northwest Territories (NWT). During our exchange, I committed to providing details on what leave provisions were being implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the plan for a gradual return to the workplace for GNWT staff.

I can confirm that currently there is no intention to provide any sort of additional leave to GNWT staff that choose to leave the NWT. The GNWT has recommended that employees avoid all non-essential travel out of the territory.

GNWT staff who do leave the NWT and are required to self-isolate upon their return, are able to work remotely if operationally possible. If employees are unable to work remotely, then they will be required to request leave to cover the self-isolation period. If the travel out of the territory was non-essential, the employee will be required to use annual, lieu, or leave without pay for the self-isolation period, whereas if the travel was essential, the employee may be able to use sick or special leave.

With regards to the plan for a phased approach to return to the worksite, in May 2020, the GNWT distributed a document outlining the plan to have employees return to the worksite via email, BearNet, and MyHR. Many employees have already returned to the worksite, beginning with areas where there had been an interruption in service and those that were easily able to comply with the requirements of the Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO).

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On July 12, 2020, I shared a message with all employees announcing the intention to have all remaining GNWT employees return back to the worksite. The timing of the employees' return varies by each worksite, as the CPHO is required to review and approve variations to the Public Health Orders where necessary.

Employees with health concerns or childcare issues have been permitted to remain working remotely. For the employees who have already returned to the worksite, measures have been put in place to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. These measures include the provision of personal protective equipment, where necessary, enhanced cleaning schedules, the implementation of new processes and tools to reduce contact, as well as appropriate training for employees.

We continue to actively monitor the situation and are prepared to take further action in order to ensure the safety of NWT residents and GNWT employees.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Caroline Wawzonek  
Minister of Finance

c. Deputy Minister, Finance

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Legislative Coordinator