

**GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES RESPONSE TO
MOTION 40-17(5): WELLNESS CENTRE AT STANTON HOSPITAL**

Motion

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River North, that the Legislative Assembly strongly recommends that the Department of Health and Social Services work with Aboriginal governments to establish a Wellness Centre at Stanton Territorial Hospital;

AND FURTHER, that the Department of Health and Social Services incorporate a Wellness Centre into its plan for renewal of the Stanton Territorial Hospital;

AND FURTHER, that the Government provide a comprehensive response to this motion within 120 days.

GNWT Response

The Department of Health and Social Services (Department) is working with Stanton Territorial Health Authority (STHA) to define the needs for the development of a Territorial Aboriginal Wellness Centre.

The Department and the STHA recognize the importance of culture in health care and work to incorporate Aboriginal wellness programs into the delivery of health care services.

The Department and STHA have planned for the continued delivery of existing Aboriginal wellness programs within the hospital as part of the technical and program renewal of Stanton.

However, some aspects of Aboriginal wellness cannot be accommodated within the walls of an acute care hospital due to building code and safety requirements. We are committed to exploring the need for a stand-alone wellness centre, outside the walls of the acute care hospital that could accommodate traditional activities, and act as a gathering place for patients, family and friends.

Preliminary discussions have taken place with the Stanton Elders' Advisory Council and Aboriginal groups interested in partnering with the GNWT.

The Department has recently engaged an external consultant to develop an operational plan to support the development of a Territorial Aboriginal Wellness Centre that is part of the Stanton Territorial Hospital campus.