



FEB 25 2019

MR. TOM BEAULIEU
MLA, TU NEDHE - WIILIDEH

Oral Question 527-18(3): Aging in Place

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on February 7, 2019 regarding Aging in Place.

The Department of Health and Social Services (Department) is committed to helping elders live in their homes as long as possible, by ensuring the right supports are in place. Homecare services may provide nursing care, help with activities of daily living and organization of activities to support wellness through nutrition, educational and social activities.

Since 2017-18, fourteen new homecare positions have been established in the Northwest Territories (NWT) which total eleven full time equivalents (FTEs); eight full time (1.0) and six part-time (0.5) FTEs. Of those, twelve positions have been filled, and two 0.5 FTEs are in active recruitment. All Home Support Worker positions except Kakisa are either filled or in the hiring process.

The competition for Home Support Worker in Nahanni Butte is in the process of staffing, while the position in Kakisa has not been filled through competition. The Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority is examining options to fill the position in Kakisa, which may include collaboration with the local Band.

The recruitment process for the Dehcho Region included advertising in Nahanni Butte, Smbaa K'e, Wrigley, and Jean Marie River. Local Band offices were also contacted to help identify potential candidates, who were then contacted as suggested.

The NWT Housing Corporation has confirmed they maintain information on seniors accessing the Seniors Aging-in-Place Retrofit program. This program seeks to enable seniors whom are homeowners to remain in their home longer, by providing funding for retrofits that will make their homes more durable or more energy-efficient. Since the inception of the program in 2017, 131 senior households in the NWT have accessed the program.

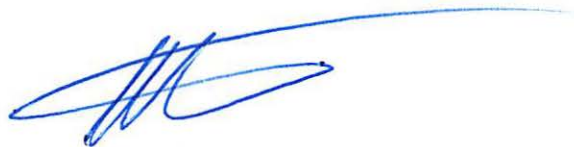
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The Department is unable to confirm that the seniors who had their homes retrofitted are also receiving home care services. However, the NWT Home Care Program can facilitate Occupational Therapy assessments to support applications to the Seniors Aging in Place Retrofit Program.

It is important to remember that not all seniors who experience mobility challenges or are planning for Aging in Place, require home care services.

I will ensure Members are kept informed of our continued work to improve Homecare Services in the NWT.

Thank you.



Glen Abernethy
Minister of Health and Social Services

c Mr. Tim Mercer
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. David Hastings
Legislative Coordinator, Executive