



MAR 30 2016

MLA, YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

ORAL QUESTION 116-18(2): Disabilities Action Plan

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on March 3, 2016 regarding a disabilities action plan.

The Department of Health and Social Services (Department) remains committed to ensuring effective supports and programs for persons with disabilities, in collaboration with other Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) departments.

We will be engaging with our partners on a new phase of strategic priorities for persons with disabilities with linkages to relevant priorities of the 18th Legislative Assembly. The strategic action plan for persons with disabilities will build upon previous work. Specifically, our goals will be to:

- Prepare an accessible inventory of supports the GNWT currently has in place;
- Ensure we are maximizing existing resources and that they are well marketed and coordinated;
- Identify any significant gaps; and
- Establish priorities for new initiatives as resources become available.

The Department is working with other GNWT departments to compile the inventory of GNWT supports. When this is completed we will meet with partners and organizations that provide disability services to better understand the barriers to providing the right combination of services and supports to persons with disabilities when they need them. This work is expected to be completed by fall 2016.

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