



MAR 29 2019

MR. MICHAEL NADLI  
MLA, DEH CHO

**Oral Question 588-18(3): Dental Services in Small Communities**

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on February 21, 2019 regarding dental services in small communities.

As you are aware, dental services are not an insured health service, and in those communities without dental clinics the regions of the Health Authorities enter into contracts with dental providers to come to the community and provide services to NIHB-eligible residents. Historically, the private Hay River Dental Clinic has provided services in Fort Providence from the Snowshoe Inn, but this stopped in 2018 due to renovations being made to the Snowshoe Inn. Since that time Fort Providence has been without a visiting dental provider.

I am aware of the lack of dental services in Fort Providence, and I am pleased to inform you that the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) - Dehcho Region, has amended their dental contract with Northwest Dental Services to include the community of Fort Providence. A visiting dentist is scheduled to provide dental services in Fort Providence from March 25 - 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The newly equipped dental room at the Fort Providence community health centre will be used to provide these services on an ongoing basis in the community.

Going forward NTHSSA has assured me that future dental contract RFPs will include Fort Providence. This will see the community receive three dental visits annually (approximately 15 - 18 days per year).

I hope this is an agreeable resolution to this issue, and will satisfy the needs of Fort Providence residents now and in the future.

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