



April 22, 2021

ROCKY SIMPSON
MLA, HAY RIVER SOUTH

**Oral Question 564-19(2): Extended and Long Term Care in Hay River, and
Oral Question 673-19(2): Extended Care Beds**

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on February 12, 2021 regarding Extended and Long-Term Care in Hay River, and the Oral Question you raised on March 12, 2021 regarding Extended Care Beds.

As you know, the 48 bed Long Term Care (LTC) facility in Hay River has been reduced to 24 beds. The staffing required to operate a stand-alone 48 bed LTC facility is estimated at 75 positions. Reducing the size of the facility to 24 LTC beds will allow the new facility to be built as an extension of the existing Woodland Manor, which will require approximately 43 positions to operate. This is a reduction of approximately 43% of the positions, including 21 direct care staff (nurses and resident care aides).

Community engagement took place with the Town, the HR Seniors' Society and IGs on April 9, 2021 with Department of Health and Social Services (Department) officials to discuss the results of the updated population projections and how those projections influence the development of a LTC facility in Hay River. It is our expectation that following this engagement, we will finalize the design work and construction on the new building could start in as few as 12 to 18 months. The demolition and reclamation of the old hospital is planned to begin summer 2021.

The Department is committed to improving Home and Community Care (HCC) services to enable seniors with care needs to remain living in their community as long as possible. This includes investing additional resources over time to meet the growing demand for HCC services. The recently completed HCC Review (Review) identified that an additional nine positions (nurses and home support workers) would be required by 2035 in Hay River, based on population projections. The Department is working with the Health and Social Services Authorities to address the Review recommendations. The work plan includes expanding the hours of service to include evenings and weekends, and adding additional positions to support increasing complexity of care. By increasing the capacity of HCC services we will be better able to support Hay River residents to remain living in their community.

Thank you.

Julie Green
Minister of Health and Social Services

c Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Legislative Coordinator
Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs