



April 22, 2021

CAITLIN CLEVELAND
MLA, KAM LAKE

Oral Question 666-19(2): The Fourth Trimester

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on March 11, 2021 regarding the Fourth Trimester.

Texting is not available right now, but as always Public Health nurses are available on call for 24/7 for emergencies. Public Health does not currently have the capacity to offer 24-hour on-call services specifically to new mothers.

In the communities where Midwifery services are offered, new mothers have access to a midwife on call 24/7 for a full six weeks. Midwives do at least one home visit in the early days after the baby is born. If the baby is born in Yellowknife but Yellowknife is not the home community, the home visit will happen very soon after the mother returns to her community.

In the communities where Midwifery services are not offered or for mothers who do not wish to receive Midwifery services, Community Health Nurses or Public Health Nurses are responsible for Well Child visits, the first of which is typically a home visit within 1 week after birth. Community Health Nurses are on call 24/7 in communities where they are the primary health center staff. It is routine that they let new parents know that they are available to call 24/7 for any concerns or questions about their child's health or their own health at any time.

Thank you.

Julie Green
Minister of Health and Social Services

c Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Legislative Coordinator
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