



June 29, 2021

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON
MLA, HAY RIVER SOUTH

Oral Question 744-19(2): Aging in Place with Dignity

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on June 2, 2021 regarding Aging in Place with Dignity.

The Department of Health and Social Services (Department) is making investments in Home and Community Care (HCC) services in response to the HCC Review recommendations. Six positions are funded in the 2021-22 fiscal year across our Health and Social Services System to support the recommendations. Below is a list of the six positions and their hiring status:

- 2 Regional HCC Nursing Coordinators – Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) – Beaufort Delta
 - Positions are in process of being posted.
- 1 Regional HCC Nursing Coordinator – NTHSSA – Sahtu:
 - 2 unsuccessful competitions; will continue to work with HR on recruitment process.
- 2 Territorial Wound Care nurses – NTHSSA – Yellowknife:
 - 1 position hired July 2020.
 - 1 position not filled; 2 unsuccessful competitions; updating job description and continuing recruitment process.
- Project Manager – Department of Health and Social Services – Yellowknife:
 - Filled. Started March 2021.

Additionally, federal First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care (FNIHCC) funding administered by the Department is being provided to the three Health and Social Services Authorities this year to establish positions to expand the hours of HCC services, as per the Review recommendations.

Our government is also working collaboratively across departments to improve services to support aging in place. We recognize that the lack of community transportation services, and the cost of alternative transportation, can be a barrier for seniors and other Northwest Territories (NWT) residents to access services in their community. The GNWT currently provides funding to communities to operate community services they feel are important, and this can include transportation services, but there are no plans to provide targeted or specific funding for transportation.

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However, as we advance work related to the mandate commitment to enable seniors to age in place with dignity, and develop an NWT Seniors Strategy, opportunities to enhance transportation services may arise. We will engage with residents, community organizations, and Indigenous and community governments to understand where they see the gaps in services for seniors. We will also be rolling out an Age Friendly Community Grant program in October 2021 to help communities identify, prioritize, and take action to create the conditions at a community level to support seniors to remain engaged in the community. Through the development of an NWT Seniors Strategy and the roll out of an Age Friendly Community Grant program, we can prioritize what's needed most and identify resources required to close gaps.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JAGreen". The letters are cursive and fluid, with the "J" and "A" being particularly prominent.

Julie Green
Minister of Health and Social Services

c A/Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Legislative Coordinator
Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs