



December 8, 2021

RYLUND JOHNSON  
MLA, YELLOWKNIFE NORTH

**Oral Question 820-19(2): Staffing at Stanton Territorial Hospital**

This letter is a follow up to the Oral Question you asked on November 26, 2021 regarding the temporary closure of the obstetrics unit at Stanton Territorial Hospital and the additional travel necessary for patients.

When residents are required to travel outside the NWT to access medically necessary services costs vary by individual, depending on the length of stay and medical services received.

As I indicated previously, the estimated travel and accommodation costs to send a patient and escort to Edmonton for labour and delivery services is approximately \$12,500, based on a 28-day stay. However, not all travel related costs are incurred by the GNWT. Such of the cost is covered or partially offset by Federal Benefit programs (NIHB), employer benefits plans or co-payments by individuals.

In addition, the cost of insured health services provided in Alberta is billed back to the NWT; this includes hospital and physician services. The estimated cost per patient for labour and delivery services is \$6,500.

I recognize there are also financial impacts related to the temporary closure of obstetrics services at Stanton Territorial Hospital including:

- reduction of OBS staffing costs at Stanton Hospital
- reduction of revenue from other territories/provinces for non-NWT residents (hospital & physician services) of approximately \$9,200 per patient
- cost of accommodation for patients from outside of Yellowknife who have received services at Stanton Territorial Hospital will now be carried over to their Alberta stay.

The NTHSSA Medical Travel Office reviewed all of the 90 patients that were scheduled to receive services in Stanton Hospital between December 10, 2021 and February 21, 2022 to determine the benefit eligibility for each client;

- 21 patients have HSS Medical Travel benefits
- 26 patients have Federal NIHB benefits
- 31 patients have Other Employer benefit plans
- 12 patients have non-NWT residents

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Based on this review an estimate of the total costs to the NWT HSS System is as follows;

\$165,000	Travel and Accommodation (HSS administered Medical Travel) - 21 patients : eligible for HSS Benefit programs
\$21,000	Travel and Accommodation (Federal NIHB clients) - 26 patients : eligible for Federal NIHB benefits ( <i>airfare less \$400 co-payment for patients</i> )
\$507,000	Hospital and Physician costs (for services received in Alberta) - 78 patients : NWT residents
\$110,000	Reduced Revenue for non-NWT patients (that would have received services in Stanton Hospital) <i>*hospital &amp; physician services are reciprocally billed to the home territory/province of the patient</i> - 12 patients : non-NWT residents
<i>TBD</i>	Reduced staffing cost at Stanton Hospital related to impact of the service reduction
<b>\$803,000</b>	<b>TOTAL Estimate of cost impacts on the NWT HSS System</b>

Thank you.



Julie Green  
Minister of Health and Social Services

c Clerk of the Legislative Assembly  
Legislative Coordinator, Executive and Indigenous Affairs