

**Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
Capital Budget—Dept. of Health and Social Services
Completing and Occupying the New Hospital**

September 27, 2017

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I want to follow up on something that Mr. Elkin said. My understanding is that the hospital construction will be complete by the end of the year in 2018, and the move-in will happen six months later. I am wondering why it takes six months between the end of construction and the beginning of the move-in. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we plan cautiously when it comes to moving into these facilities. The building is going to be built. It is going to be completed by the proponent. We have to go in and test all the equipment, all the medical equipment, and make sure every line that provides or supplies oxygen or other medical gases works appropriately, make sure that every line is checked, every system is verified, and we need to make sure that we give ourselves the appropriate time to make sure that the building is meeting the technical and medical and clinical specifications and requirements. This is, I wouldn't suggest, abnormal; moving into Hay River as an example took a large number of months to make sure that everything was safe and functioning, and the same is going to be true for Norman Wells. We need time to get in and do the verification before we start moving staff and, more importantly, patients into those facilities.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you for that response. At what point does the furniture go in there, and the rooms get set up, and all that sort of thing? Is that within this six months, or is that in addition to it? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we will have staff in the building doing mock runs of processes, mock runs of other things. Some of the structure, furniture, et cetera, will be moved in, but for warranty purposes we would obviously be looking at putting off or moving the substantial amount of the furniture until sort of the last minute in order to make sure that we have insurance coverage and we're not wasting warranty time or insurance time, warranty time on facilities that are sitting in an empty building.

It will progress in, and not all divisions or sections are going to move in at the same time. That would never work. We're going to phase a move-in, so different units at different times. The units that have some crossover, we'll obviously want to coordinate those so that we're moving them in in a coordinated, logical fashion. It will all be planned out, phased out, in light of demands in different units, staffing, equipment, when we want to move those types of things in.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The phased move-in, how long will that take? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister. Thank you, Minister. Mr. Elkin.

MR. ELKIN: Thank you. The six-month period of operational readiness is, as the Minister mentioned, when we will phase in moving all the programs over, having the staff have the opportunity to run through the processes, having the equipment tested and set up, so that once we get to the targeted first-patient day, which will be, you know, around May or June of 2019, then we can actually then move the patients in; but the staff have to have a chance to run and function in the new facility to make sure everything works as designed, and then we can make any adjustments as needed before we actually move all the patients in.

All the various programs in the building will be moving in, as the Minister said, in phases, and they'll test this department and test that department and make sure that all the systems in the building are running correctly before we actually move any patients in.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm sorry, I don't think my question was clear. I appreciate the need to do the testing and so on, but once the first patient is moved in, how long will it take to move all the others in? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. Minister.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: The intention is for that time period to be very short. Once we get -- say let's talk peds, as an example. We'll have the staff go in; they'll do some test runs in the area. They'll make sure everything's working, and they'll move of the stuff over. Once the first patient day happens, we will be moving over the rest of the material from the peds unit as quickly as possible. It could be a week, but we don't want to have an under-resourced peds unit at any given time. We do have to have some time, but those periods of time from first patient day to all the material in in each unit will be very short.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Minister. For those listening at home, could you please define "peds?"

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Certainly; pediatric unit.