

**Mid-term Review Committee of the 18th Legislative Assembly
Yellowknife South MLA Julie Green to Minister Glen Abernethy
October 4, 2017**

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Earlier this year, the GNWT signed a new healthcare funding arrangement with Ottawa. It offers less money, even with the special allocations for specific purposes such as homecare, at a time when the cost of providing healthcare and the demand for service is growing. My question for the Minister is: what is your assessment of this gap, and how are you going to close it? Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Lafferty): Masi. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The money that we are getting from the federal government, when you look at the Canada Health Transfer and the new monies for the individual pots, is less than we would have received if they had maintained it at a six per cent growth rate for CHT. This is certainly a challenge, but we are working on a number of mandate items within this government. We are looking at seeking additional resources for many of the activities that we are undertaking, things like homecare, things like midwifery services, and things like community counsellors in communities throughout the Northwest Territories. We continue to work with the federal government to try and get a better understanding of how we can utilize these funds, but clearly it is a challenge. Many of these funds are what are often referred to as boutique funding because they have a real short time period. They start one day and they end a number of years later. We are going to use these dollars to help actually build some capacity within the system, training and putting in new programs that we can use those dollars to help design, to make real changes for people in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. In your mandate letter the Premier asks you to develop financing options for long-term care facilities, propose a regulatory framework for long-term care, develop and implement an action plan for enhanced home and community care services, and develop and implement an action plan for expanded palliative care services. Of this list, just one item has been accomplished, and that's the continuing care plan, which is a plan looking for resources. Can the Minister tell us whether he will be able to complete the rest of the tasks on this list in the life of this Assembly? Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Lafferty): Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, as I indicated earlier today, there are over 84 individual items that fall under the mandate in the government right now. We have completed many of them. We are in process of many of them, and yes, we are behind on a couple, but I am committed to getting all of that work that the Member described done. I am committed to moving forward every mandate item that is in this document for the Department of Health and Social Services. I will be working closely with committee to move those forward. I believe, you know, we're only two years in, Mr. Chair. We've got two years left. We have done an awful lot of work in the first two years, and there's an awful lot of work left in the last two years. I'm committed to getting that done, and I look forward to working with committee to make it a reality. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

