

**ORAL QUESTION—JULIE GREEN, MLA YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE**

**QUESTION 345-18(3): ADULT DAY PROGRAM**

**JUNE 1, 2018**

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. On this Intergenerational Day, I would like to see him put some words into action about seniors. In February I asked the Minister about the status of contracting a new provider for the Adult Day Program in Yellowknife. The Minister said, "I am hoping that we can get this contract out as quickly as possible, hopefully before the end of this fiscal year." Can the Minister provide us with an update? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Health and Social Services.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Member knows, we did go out for an RFP. We did not have any interest in that RFP. In discussion with the Member during the last sitting, I indicated that we were going to reach out to some of the people who requested the proposal to find out why there was no interest in the proposal, and what we could do differently before we go out with a new proposal that might actually garner some interest. We did that work. We did hear from some proponents that, first off, the length of duration of the RFP was too short. They felt it needed to be longer so that they could put together a better package. There were concerns about some of the other smaller clauses within the RFP, and there was a larger concern about the actual duration of the contract.

So we have made those amendments to the RFP. We are just doing the final tweaks as we speak, and we are hoping to have that RFP issued this month so that we can find a provider, a new provider, of the Adult Day Program here in Yellowknife as quickly as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MS. GREEN:** I'm not sure I understand all of the Minister's answers, so I would like him to clarify that the RFP is available as a thing to bid on for longer, and the term of the contract is available for longer? Has the money increased, as well? Those are my questions, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** The RFP is going to be issued this month. We're going to run the RFP for a longer period of time, which hopefully allows people to develop more comprehensive proposals and have more time to assess their capacity to actually bid on the proposal. We, based on recommendations from individuals who did request the previous proposal, are extending the length of the contract, so that will make it more appealing, hopefully, according to some of the proponents.

We haven't issued the RFP. I've said we're going to issue the RFP this month, and hopefully we will see some solid proposals.

**MS. GREEN:** I appreciate that clarification. I'm wondering if the Minister is going to go beyond "hopefully" and actually meet with people to ask them to bid on this contract.

For example, there has been lots of discussion about how seniors and children in daycare can form a great partnership because they need, in some cases, similar services in a similar situation. So is there any kind of proactive work going on to attract bidders in that way?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** After the Member's previous comments in the House when we discussed the RFP that was unsuccessful, I indicated that we would be reaching out to individuals to get their thoughts on how we could be more creative. A lot of that work has already been done. Once the RFP has been issued, I'm happy to have the department mail a copy of the RFP to anybody who is interested, and have conversations with anybody who has some creative ideas on how to move forward in a cooperative way in order to provide quality day programs for seniors in the Yellowknife area.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**MS. GREEN:** Masi, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the Minister's response. Is it possible for the Minister or his staff to be even more proactive than advertising and mailing the package out? It is possible for him or his staff to actively encourage people to apply so that we ensure that this time there are bidders on this proposal?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, the department will be reaching out to potential proponents, like we did previously, to encourage them to apply and discuss with them options as we move forward, and I will certainly get the information out as best I can through tweets and other medium to encourage people to apply. Mr. Speaker, I want the same thing the Member wants. I want a day program in Yellowknife. We're going to do everything that we can. If we're unsuccessful with the RFP, I'll certainly be sitting down with the Member and other Yellowknife MLAs to discuss other possibilities. We're very hopeful that we'll find somebody who is interested in providing this important service, and we will continue to work until it happens. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.