



FEB 26 2019

MS. JULIE GREEN
MLA, YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

Oral Question 555-18(3): Yellowknife Adult Day Programming

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on February 12, 2019 regarding Yellowknife Adult Day Programming.

On February 21, 2019 the Department of Health and Social Services (Department) and the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) staff met with representatives from the Yellowknife Association for Community Living, the NWT Disabilities Council, the Yellowknife Senior's Society, the NWT Senior's Society, the Alzheimer's Society of Alberta and the NWT, AVENS and the City of Yellowknife to discuss the potential for a community based approach to day programming for seniors in Yellowknife.

From this meeting it is clear there is a shared interest between parties to work together to build a model of care that meets the inclusion and care needs of seniors in Yellowknife while filling service gaps by building on capacity that exists within this City. I am pleased that the meeting resulted in the formation of a steering committee to support the development of a concrete program development plan. This plan will see the NTHSSA and the Department working to identify social inclusion needs of individual seniors and the development of options for program enhancements (e.g. increased support to existing programs, development of new programs) that are required to meet the needs of these seniors and their families.

Through this process it is expected that we will identify seniors who, with some extra support (e.g. one on one care), could participate in existing programs. We will also identify seniors who have needs that cannot be met within existing programs thus requiring an investment to support program development that our stakeholders could be supported to fill.

Taking a client-centered approach that builds on existing organizational strengths and moves us away from an institutional model that serves a small group to a more community based approach that will serve a larger group is exciting. Now that we have sufficient support for the concept to advance with the work collaboratively we recognize that the pace of planning needs to pick up. To that end, the Steering Committee will be meeting in early March.

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I will continue to keep you up to date on the development of this important issue as planning moves forward.

Thank you.



Glen Abernethy
Minister of Health and Social Services

- c. Mr. Tim Mercer
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

- Mr. David Hastings
Legislative Coordinator, Executive