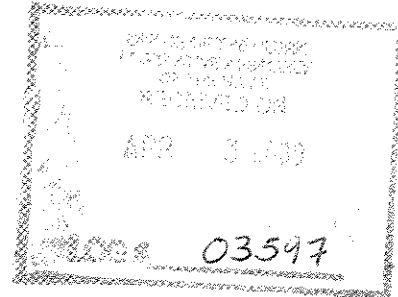




Northwest Territories Minister of Health and Social Services

APR 03 2009



MR. TIM MERCER  
CLERK OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**Response of Petition 3-16(3)**

Attached is the Response to Petition 3-16(3), tabled by Mr. Glen Abernethy on February 5, 2009.

*Sandy Lee*  
Sandy Lee

Attachment

- c. Mr. Kevin O'Keefe  
Legislative Coordinator

① Noted April 9/09  
 ② May / June session  
*[Signature]*



Petition tabled by Mr. Glen Abernethy on February 5, 2009

Response by the Honourable Sandy Lee  
Minister of Health and Social Services

### **Seniors' Health Benefits**

The proposed changes to the Supplementary Health Benefits Program was intended to assist residents, and their families, who have comparatively low income and who do not have access to any supplementary health care benefits. The policy to guide these programs was to come into effect on April 1, 2009.

On February 10, 2009, in response to concerns raised by the public and the Members of the Legislative Assembly about the proposed program, the Minister advised Committee of the Whole that implementation of the Supplementary Health Benefits Policy would be postponed until April 1, 2010 in order to facilitate a review of the program design necessary to advance the Policy's intent and to undertake full consultation with the Members of the House and stakeholders on the Policy's objectives and implementation.

The comprehensive review will take into account all aspects of program design, including eligibility criteria and benefit levels. The outcome of the comprehensive review will determine what form the supplementary health benefit program will take for Northwest Territories residents.