



JUL 06 2016

MR. FREDERICK BLAKE JR.  
MLA, MACKENZIE DELTA

**ORAL QUESTION 200-18(2): Licensed Practical Nursing Position in Tsiigehtchic**

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This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on June 9, 2016 regarding a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) in Tsiigehtchic.

As I mentioned in the House, at this point in time we are not planning to place a LPN in Tsiigehtchic. We are working with the community to develop an alternative, community-based solution to deliver primary care and emergency services at the community level. Department of Health and Social Services staff and the Deputy Minister's Office are working with the community and the Designated Gwich'in Organization to identify a date to meet at the end of August, to explore possibilities for a pilot project that will address the primary health care needs of Tsiigehtchic residents.

Thank you for bringing to my attention the fact that the community has identified an individual who may be open to living and working in Tsiigehtchic in a nursing capacity year-round. We must still ensure there are no liability or safety issues with a nurse working alone. As I mentioned in the House, we would be pleased to facilitate a discussion between the interested individual and the appropriate Health Authority to discuss this matter further at a mutually convenient time.

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