



MAR 12 2018

MR. KEVIN O'REILLY
MLA, FRAME LAKE

Oral Question 181-18(3): Midwifery Programs and Policies

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on February 28, 2018, regarding Midwifery Programs and Policies.

The Department of Health and Social Services (Department) has accepted and prioritized the ten recommendations of the 2017 Northwest Territories Midwifery Stakeholder Engagement report, and will be implementing the new program as funding becomes available through the regular budget cycle. I am committed to the development of a territory-wide midwifery program that supports mothers, babies and families in the NWT, to be implemented within the life of this Assembly.

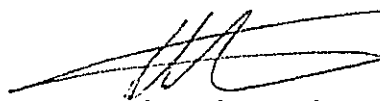
An experienced NWT Registered Midwife was recruited by the Department in fall 2017 to lead in the action planning and analysis needed for successful implementation of a territorial midwifery program. The Department has also recently secured one-time federal funding to help inform a recruitment and retention approach for midwifery.

The Department has reached out to colleagues in the Tłı̄cho Community Service Agency as well as well as Tłı̄cho Government, along with the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority to discuss the benefits of integrating midwifery into their communities. These discussions are ongoing. A joint working group on Territorial Midwifery Program expansion has been meeting to facilitate targeted analysis of program implementation as it relates to service delivery models and associated costs in preparation for the business planning process. A midwife from Hay River sits on the joint working group focused on the expansion of the Territorial Midwifery Program.

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As committed in the House, I am happy to meet with Standing Committee to share our progress on the work that has been completed on the development of a territorial midwifery program.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'GA', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Glen Abernethy
Minister of Health and Social Services

c Mr. Tim Mercer
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. David Hastings
Legislative Coordinator, Executive