



MAR 21 2018

MR. SHANE THOMPSON
MLA, NAHENDEH

Oral Question 199-18(3): Medical Travel

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on March 1, 2018 regarding medical travel and airline service in the Dehcho region.

Department of Health and Social Services (Department) staff recently contacted the contract carrier in the Dehcho region for the Medical Travel program to discuss flight cancellations and rescheduling in order to better understand the scope of this issue. It was indicated to the Department that it has been a particularly harsh winter; as a result, the airline has had to either reschedule or cancel a number of their flights.

When this occurs, medical travel will book clients on alternative airlines if flights and seats are available, or find new travel dates if the medical appointment times need to be changed. If patients wish to book their own travel and, for example, fly earlier, the medical travel program allows clients to purchase their own tickets and seek reimbursement for up to what it would have cost the program to book the travel.

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 and Indigenous Affairs