



**MAY 23 2018**

MR. FREDERICK BLAKE JR.  
MLA, MACKENZIE DELTA

**Oral Question 273-18(3): Travel for Elders with Health Issues during Freeze-Up and Break-Up**

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This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on March 15, 2018, regarding Travel for Elders with Health Issues during Freeze-Up and Break-Up.

In the Northwest Territories (NWT), communities with less than 250 residents do not have resident registered nurses. In Tsiigehtchic, there are positions in the community that support the delivery of healthcare services, such as a community health representative, a home support worker, and a community wellness worker. All community health and social services staff have 24 hour access to nurses and physicians at the Inuvik Regional Hospital. An experienced Registered Nurse (RN) from Inuvik goes to Tsiigehtchic once per week, and during the inaccessible periods in the spring and fall (freeze-up and/or break-up) a RN nurse resides in Tsiigehtchic for the length of the interruption and is available 24 hours a day.

If a resident of Tsiigehtchic requires medical care during these times, they can see the RN at the health centre for an assessment of their healthcare needs. Nursing staff review patient needs on a case-by case basis. As a preventive measure, a physician may request that a patient be brought to Inuvik during times where the community is inaccessible by road.

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As committed in the House, I look forward to having a conversation with you on how all available options can be explored in order to provide the best care possible to elders in Tsiigehtchic during the spring and fall seasons.

Thank you.



Glen Abernethy  
Minister of Health and Social Services

c Mr. Tim Mercer  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. David Hastings  
Legislative Coordinator  
Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs