



OCT 24 2016

MR. SHANE THOMPSON
MLA, NAHENDEH

Oral Question 307-18(2) and Oral Question 315-18(2): Fort Simpson Health Centre Planning Study

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Questions you raised on October 13, 2016 regarding the Fort Simpson Health Centre Planning Study.

As I mentioned in the House, Phase 1 of Fort Simpson Health Centre Planning Study is currently underway. The Department of Health and Social Services is working with the Department of Public Works and Services and the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority – Dehcho Region, on the planning study for the replacement of the Fort Simpson Health Centre.


We expect Phase 1 of the planning study, which includes the programming work, to be completed this fiscal year. Phase 2 of the planning study, which includes completing a schematic design for the facility and development of a Class 'C' construction cost estimate, is not anticipated to be complete prior to the end of this fiscal year. Given the current constraints surrounding the planning work for this facility, the earliest that it could be put forward for consideration for inclusion in the Capital Plan would be 2018/2019. The Fort Simpson facility remains a priority, and we will take all reasonable efforts to have the work completed as soon as possible, and do our best to position this project to compete for a limited capital funding budget.

It is fundamental that every Health and Social Services facility developed in the Northwest Territories be appropriate for the population it serves. Part of this is ensuring that the facility meets all applicable building, operational, health and safety, and infection control requirements. Beyond that a Health and Social Services Facility must be adapted where appropriate to suit the culture of the region that it is serving.

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Finally, I can confirm that the projected demand for Long Term Care Beds in Fort Simpson and the surrounding region for the year 2026 is 29.1 beds. For more information on this can be found in the Long Term Care Program Review Final Report, which is on the Department of Health and Social Services website at: <http://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/sites/default/files/nwt-long-term-care-program-review.pdf>.

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