



RESPONSE TO PETITION

No.

2-18(3)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Petition tabled by Mr. Kieron Testart on May 29, 2018

Response by the Honourable Glen Abernethy
Minister of Health and Social Services

Addictions Treatment Centre

The Department has decided not to invest in another addictions treatment centre in the NWT at this time. Over the years, there have been four treatment facilities operated in the NWT, and all have failed due to similar operational challenges including: underutilization, high costs, staffing challenges, lengthy wait times, and the inability to provide specialized treatment (e.g. trauma, concurrent disorders, opiate addiction).

The Department holds contracts with four southern treatment facilities for NWT residents requiring this service. Using southern facilities allows us to offer specialized treatment options for NWT residents such as gender specific treatment, culturally-based treatment, trauma-focused treatment, and treatment for concurrent disorders. Also, the costs associated with using southern facilities are approximately equal to the annual cost of running a treatment centre in the NWT.

In addition to facility based addiction treatment programs, the Department offers a number of service and support options including; community based counselling and addictions support; on the land healing programs; culturally based community wellness programs; and mobile treatment programs.

Aftercare and appropriate follow up is also recognized as an important step in the recovery process. As such, a number of options for this type of support is available in the NWT:

- The Community Counselling Program provides individualized aftercare;
- The NTHSSA and the HRHSSA currently offer the community-based Matrix Outpatient Addictions Program; and
- The Department supports Indigenous Governments to deliver On the Land Healing programs for addictions.

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Non-governmental organizations such as the Tree of Peace Friendship Centre offer aftercare supports as well.

Peer Support is another important aspect of addictions recovery and the Department is currently reviewing best practice research concerning recovery oriented peer support options that may be offered to residents in the future.

We are committed to ensuring that residents have access to a broad and flexible range of addictions recovery services within available resources. We will be looking at ways to enhance our approach to addictions recovery by ensuring a comprehensive continuum of recovery supports as part of our work on the Addictions Recovery action plan.