



NOV 14 2016

MR. FREDERICK BLAKE JR.
MLA, MACKENZIE DELTA

Oral Question 373-18(2): Nursing Services in Tsiigehtchic

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on October 20th, 2016 regarding Nursing Services in Tsiigehtchic.

I have been advised that a doctor and nurse were in the community for the day on October 27th for a clinic, and another nurse went into the community starting on October 28th. Nursing services will be provided until the ice road is in place.

As was discussed in the House, the operating plan has always been to ensure there is a nurse in the community before the ferry is out of service. The nurse is then brought out of the community when the Department of Transportation opens the ice road out of Tsiigehtchic. This year, as the Department of Transportation will be having the ferry continue to run while the ice road is being made, it will shorten the nurse's time in the community. As the dates for ferry and ice road services in and out of the community will vary from year to year, the dates for nursing services are also altered to match the criteria for access to and from the community.

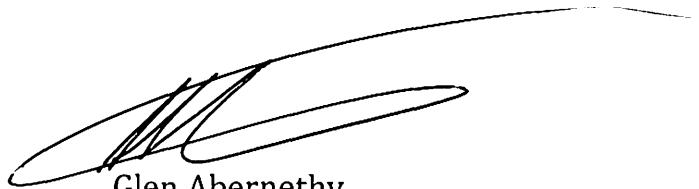
The decision on when a nurse goes into the community is made by the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority – Beaufort Delta Region, and is based on several factors, including weather and ice conditions that affect travel in and out of the community.

I have also been advised that given the varying dates from year-to-year on when the ferry will run until, it would be difficult to set an exact date for the nurse to come into the community. Typically it is mid-to-late October, based upon conditions, but it is a decision that depends on the Department of Transportation's assessment and use of the ferry. Similarly, the decision on when the nurse leaves the community in December is based on when the ice road is accessible. I cannot provide exact dates for when the nurse will come and leave the community every year.

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Providing quality health services to all communities in the NWT is a priority of the Department of Health and Social Services. Small communities like Tsiigehtchic face unique challenges for the delivery of effective and sustainable emergency health care. The Department, the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority – Beaufort Delta Region, and Tsiigehtchic leaders are currently in discussions for collaboration on a pilot project to develop, deliver and evaluate a community-centered approach to emergency health care in Tsiigehtchic. I hope that this project is successful, and addresses many of the concerns residents have regarding emergency services in their community.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke 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