

Deninu Kue First Nation P.O. Box 279 Fort Resolution NT X0E 0M0

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Community of Fort Resolution, NT

Petition to Hon. Minister Glen Abernathy, GNWT Dept. of Health & Social Services

Dated: October 12, 2018

The Community Members of Fort Resolutions are signing this document to urgently request that Mr. Glen Abernathy, the Minister of Health and Social Services, GNWT meet the needs of our elders in our Community by reopening the Elders Facility to utilize it for what it was designed for 'ELDER CARE. In our culture, as Dene people we VALUE our Elders and we TAKE CARE of them, it is sad to hear elders say that when they leave their community that they are going away to die, that is not what we want to hear. Elders in our community need the level care that our Elders Facility was designed for so that they do not have to leave the community. In the event that funding is the concern of the GNWT, we believe that it would be more cost effective to keep our elders here rather than having them travel to and from surrounding communities for day/overnight medical checkups or long-term care. We understand that there is a certain level care that can be done in the facility by current staffing under the Department of Health and we do have trained people in our community. In re-opening 'Our Great Elders Facility' we can greatly help the Elders, provide jobs to the community and address long-term care of our Elders. With the new health centre, we have trained nursing staff that can assist with supervision of Elder care and ensure the level of care required. Our community, over the years were faced with the loss of a lot of elders who passed on due to Cancer. We the community members, want to keep our elders here, most families cannot afford the high costs to travel to see their family which does negatively affect the well being of our Elders, we need this item to be addressed. The 'Our Great Elders Facility' was built to take care of and to keep our Elders at home and it was closed despite our objections. Both the Elders and community have been requesting the facility to re-open and to date no action has been taken by your department. As the GNWT Minister of Health and Social Services, you have stated - "We (The Department) want to keep elders at home to be with their families and we will work with the communities to ensure that the residents who require upgrades in their residences, be done". With the Elders who do not require level 2 medical assistance, they do not want to leave the community or their homes if there is no need to. What will it take for the GNWT to listen to the concerns of our members?

This item has been tabled with our MLA and the department for years and to date it has not been addressed, the facility is still not being utilized to it's full potential and now is vacant. We will have a new generation of elders and it is time that the Department of Health listen to our concerns and address it with our community we have an ageing population, this item needs to be addressed NOW.

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