



MR. SHANE THOMPSON  
MLA, NAHENDEH

OCT 23 2017

**Oral Question 753-18(2): Portable Ultrasound Machine for Fort Simpson Health and Social Services Centre**

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This letter is in response to the Oral Question you raised on May 25, 2017 regarding the portable ultrasound machine at the Fort Simpson Health and Social Services Centre. I can confirm that the replacement portable ultrasound unit was delivered to the Fort Simpson Health and Social Service Centre.

With regard to the potential for establishing a diagnostic ultrasound unit in the Fort Simpson Health and Social Services Centre, I can share the following information. Work is already underway within the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) to look at all areas of service provision, to make sure that the best organizational structure is in place to support efficient service delivery. Following the work on organizational structure, the NTHSSA will be looking further at each service area, including diagnostic imaging (which includes ultrasound), to ensure that the distribution of services, and the referral patterns of patients within the system, makes sense from a patient perspective, and is efficient. I will ensure that when this second phase of work is undertaken in the area of diagnostic imaging, that your request to have Fort Simpson considered as a regional location for diagnostic ultrasound services is considered. This will allow us to determine whether there is a business case to support this potential service provision.

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