



MR. R.J. SIMPSON
MLA, HAY RIVER NORTH

JUN 16 2016

ORAL QUESTION 138-18(2): Hay River Long-Term Care Beds

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on June 1, 2016 regarding Hay River Long-Term Care Beds.

The Department (Department) of Health and Social Services is currently in the development stage of a Continuing Care Service Delivery Action Plan for home and community care; long-term care and palliative care in the Northwest Territories (NWT). This plan will be built around the seven priorities outlined in the *Our Elders: Our Communities* framework.

The action plan will outline how we are going to address long-term care needs over the next 10 years, including increasing the number of beds across the territory. A lot of the work has been started with completion of the Long-Term Care Program Review (Review). As you are aware, the Review indicated a significant looming shortfall of Long-Term Care bed capacity in the South Slave region of the NWT, which includes Hay River. The long-term care component of the Continuing Care Service Delivery action plan will explore options for addressing this need by 2026, including the possibility of utilizing the current site of the H.H. Williams Hospital for long-term care.

The Department is currently working on the plan moving forward, which we hope to complete within this fiscal year, and certainly within the life of this government. However, I do not have a current date for when this plan will be complete, but once I do I will share it with all members.

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