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MR. DANIEL McNEELY
MLA, SAHTU

Oral Question 382-18(2): NEW HEALTH GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on October 25th, 2016 regarding the new health governance structure and medical travel.

Regarding the position of Regional Medical Coordinator for the Sahtu, I can confirm that no Medical Travel positions have been eliminated in any region as a result of the System Transformation initiative and the establishment of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA).

There was a period of time when the Sahtu Health and Social Services Authority (SHSSA) had established an unfunded position to help coordinate medical travel in the Sahtu region. In December 2013, the SHSSA requested that the Stanton Medical Travel Team take on the role of Medical Travel Coordination for the Sahtu. The Stanton Medical Travel Team transitioned medical travel coordination over in December 2013 and has been providing medical travel services to the Sahtu Region since January 2014. As the Sahtu position was unfunded, the Stanton Medical Travel Team did not receive additional funding to provide this service.

The NTHSSA, established in August 2016, is currently working with the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) on a Medical Travel Modernization project. The first deliverable is a pocket-sized guide titled *NWT Medical Travel: A Step-by-Step Guide*. This guide will assist all Northwest Territories (NWT) residents in navigating the system in their medical travel journey, including those with employer insurance, third party insurance or no insurance. The *NWT Medical Travel: A Step-by-Step Guide* will be released in both French and English in early 2017.

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There are currently 15 positions involved in the delivery of medical travel service in the NWT. Through the Medical Travel Modernization initiative, DHSS, in collaboration with NTHSSA, will continue the work to determine the most effective service model from a patient as well as a cost-effectiveness perspective.

As the NTHSSA becomes established, roles and responsibilities within the organization are being reviewed with a view to improving the integration and operation of medical travel services across the system, and improving services to residents.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping loop followed by several vertical strokes and a final horizontal stroke.

Glen Abernethy
Minister of Health and Social Services

c Mr. Tim Mercer
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. David Hastings
Legislative Coordinator, Executive