



MR. CORY VANTHUYNE
MLA, YELLOWKNIFE NORTH

JUN 09 2016

Oral Question 122-18(2): Seniors Advocate

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on May 31, 2016 regarding the position of a seniors advocate in the Northwest Territories (NWT).

As I mentioned in the House, currently there is no seniors advocate position within the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT). The GNWT provides funding to the NWT Seniors Society to provide a 1-800 phone line service for seniors. There are also a number of local seniors' organizations in the NWT who defend the rights of seniors and elders and work to educate the public on their needs and challenges. In addition, the Health and Social Services System Navigator, and resources like the Seniors' Information Handbook, and Government Service Officers, can help seniors navigate the system and ensure they receive information and services they require.

As the Minister Responsible for Seniors, I maintain a close working relationship with a number of seniors groups and organizations across the NWT. I will continue to meet with these organizations on a regular basis to hear their concerns and address issues facing seniors and elders.

We are currently in the development stage of our plan for long-term care, which builds off the work that was done as part of the *Our Elders: Our Communities Framework*. As we move forward with the development of this plan, it is essential that we hear from a number of stakeholders to ensure our plans accurately reflect the needs of seniors, and to provide a variety of ideas on how to best provide services. As I committed to in the House, I will work with Members and other stakeholders to discuss our plans moving forward and gain important feedback on the options we present. Working with a number of stakeholders will help us address the priorities of the 18th Assembly by taking action so that seniors can age in place.

Thank you.

Glen Abernethy
Minister Health and Social Services

c. Mr. Tim Mercer
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. David Hastings
Legislative Coordinator, Executive