



JUN 27 2019

MR. SHANE THOMPSON  
MLA, NAHENDEH

**Oral Question 744-18(3): Foster Family Recognition**

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on May 29, 2019 regarding Foster Family Recognition.

As discussed in the House, foster families perform a vital service to children and youth that are placed in care. To thank them for this service, we recognize foster families through a variety of ways, including during Foster Family Appreciation Week, which takes place every third week in October. During the past year's appreciation week we funded the creation of the Foster Family Coalition's video, "We Need You", in an effort to both recruit and celebrate foster families. The Department of Health and Social Services (Department) also uses different forms of media including radio, social media, newspaper, and cable TV ads to increase awareness amongst all residents of the important work foster families do.

Different regions in the Northwest Territories (NWT) will host their own activities to celebrate foster families. The Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) - Dehcho region holds a foster family appreciation day once every year in October in Fort Simpson, Fort Liard, and Fort Providence. During that day cake, coffee and other refreshments are served, and gifts are given out from the Foster Family Coalition of the NWT.

The full foster care budget for the Department is \$7,906,400 annually. Of this, the Department provides \$217,400 annually to support the Foster Family Coalition. This funding goes towards supports, assistance, training and summer camp programming to help meet the needs of foster children and foster families. The Foster Family Coalition is a tremendous advocate and supporter for foster families in the NWT, and we are thankful for all the work they do. The remaining \$7,689,000 is provided to the Health and Social Services Authorities and is used to support foster families and children in care.

...2

On April 1, 2018 we adjusted and increased the foster care rates across the NWT so that they could keep pace with inflation. By increasing these rates, foster parents have the resources they need to better support children and youth in their care.

Thank you for raising this matter in the House and helping to increase awareness of foster families in the NWT. If you know of anyone who is interested in becoming a foster parent or adopting, you can encourage them to: contact their local Social Services Office; email their inquiry to [cfs\\_info@gov.nt.ca](mailto:cfs_info@gov.nt.ca); visit the Foster Family Coalition of the NWT website at [www.ffcnwt.com](http://www.ffcnwt.com); or call toll free at 1-866-233-0136 for more information.

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