



JUN 10 2019

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

Oral Question 721-18(3): Recruitment of Physicians in Hay River

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on May 27, 2019 regarding Recruitment of Physicians in Hay River.

The Hay River Health and Social Services Authority (HRHSSA) has been working on a number of things to address the concerns you raised in House.

To address access to clinic appointments, the HRHSSA began providing same day walk-in or call-in appointments as of September 1, 2018 and utilized a small funding surplus to hire additional locum physicians until March 31, 2019. We continue to utilize locum physicians on a regular basis and are constantly recruiting.

In addition, Primary Health Care reform has been identified as a strategic priority for HRHSSA to improve patient care. HRHSSA has been participating in the planning and design processes of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) Primary Health Care Reform initiative to ensure that they are part of the effort from the beginning. They will continue to follow the implementation with the intention of utilizing lessons learned from the six pilots and aligning their new primary health care model with NTHSSA. The new model will work on improving service delivery and cultural safety while providing relationship based care, and it is anticipated to be implemented by the end of the fiscal year.

HRHSSA is also developing a formal recruitment strategy to improve recruitment. They work closely with the NTHSSA and benefit from the strategic health and social services human resources marketing efforts of the iPracticeNWT campaign. This campaign was recently revamped with a new website and enhanced marketing activities. This work is helping HRHSSA modernize their marketing efforts by undertaking targeted efforts via social media as well as participating in the tried-and-true on-the-ground opportunities for recruitment at trade-shows, career fairs, and industry events.

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With regards to supporting students, the HSS System engages with universities and schools to provide experiences to students studying or considering studying health and social services professions, including medical residents and students. Examples include having grade 9 students in for Take Your Kid To Work Day, attendance at job fairs and having students do their practicum placements within our facilities. Where possible, students are hired for casual employment over the summer months, and are eligible for the Graduate Entry Level Internship Program on graduation.

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