



MAY 13 2019

MR. KIERON TESTART
MLA, KAM LAKE

Oral Question 574-18(3): Mental Health Services Wait Times

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on February 20, 2019 regarding Mental Health Wait Times.

Community Counselling Programs (CCP) are located in all regions and provide free counselling for mental health, addictions and family violence, as well as referrals to other resources including things like facility based addictions treatment.

Some CCP within larger centers have wait times for non-urgent clients ranging from approximately 1 week in Fort Smith to 35 weeks in Hay River. Smaller communities generally do not experience wait times for non-urgent services.

Clients are triaged to ensure those who require urgent counselling are seen with same day appointments. Clients who are eligible may also be referred to Employee and Family Assistance Programs or Health Canada Programs. Short-term workshops and groups may also be offered to accommodate some clients on the wait list.

On The Land Programs is another option for residents. The Department of Health and Social Services provides funding to regional and community Indigenous governments to support community designed, culturally relevant land based healing programs. These programs are not intended to replace counselling or to reduce counselling wait times, rather they provide another option residents may choose regarding their own personal healing and recovery needs.

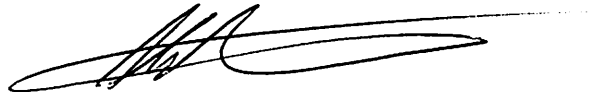
In 2018-19 a total of eight Contribution Agreements have been signed with seven regional Indigenous governments and one community Indigenous government. The agreements have supported 35 distinct On The Land Healing activities/programs in 23 different communities as listed below:

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- Akaitcho Territory Government:
 - On The Land Healing Program (Yellowknives Dene First Nation)
 - Living Well, Trauma, Addictions and Healing Program (Smiths Landing First Nation)
 - Dene Healing Journey (Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation)
 - On the Land program (Deninu Kue First Nation)
- Dehcho First Nations – Dehcho K'ehodi – “Taking Care of Dehcho”
- Gwich'in Tribal Council – Achieving Wellness Through Culture
- Inuvialuit Regional Corporation – Project Jewel
- NWT Metis Nation – On the Land Program
- Sahtu Dene Council – On the Land Healing
- Tlicho Government – Dene Warriors Program
- Acho Dene Koe – Addiction Recovery Program

Three community based Indigenous governments did not apply for funding this year (Katlodeeche First Nation, Deline Gotine Government and Salt River First Nation).

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