



FEB 08 2019

MR. SHANE THOMPSON
MLA, NAHENDEH

Oral Question 480-18(3): Airplane Crash Medevac

This letter is in response to the Oral Question you raised on October 30, 2018 regarding the Airplane Crash Medevac in Nahanni Butte.

I am very thankful that the four people involved in the plane crash only sustained minor injuries.

With respect to your question on the timing of the Medevac departure, medics arrived to treat patients at 5:57 pm. After making contact with patients in an event of this type, the air medics must assess the patients, ensure they are stable for transport, and then make sure it is safe to do so; all of which takes time.

A Medevac flight left Nahanni Butte at 8:03 pm, while the other Medevac flight departed from Fort Liard at 9:00 pm.

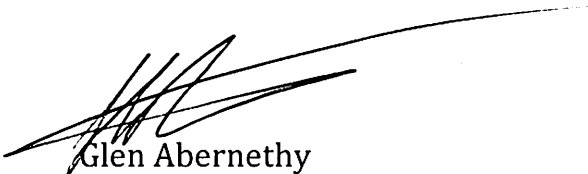
I support the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority's (NTHSSA) decisions that were made during this event as appropriate and in the best interest of the patients, in light of the complexity of the situation. MedResponse was able to react quickly and teams of medics were dispatched and in the air in less than an hour. This is remarkable considering the complexity of this particular situation. These are challenging and stressful events and I commend the staff who must handle situations of this nature.

A quality assurance review of the event in Nahanni Butte was undertaken and NTHSSA is currently reviewing the recommendations to ensure system improvements are in place. Quality assurance reviews and their recommendations are not intended to be public; rather provide a confidential method to support learning and system improvements.

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I also recognize that ongoing follow-up is important, so I wish to remind the Member, and his constituents, that community counselling programs are available in all Northwest Territory communities, through in person, telephone or telehealth services, which can be accessed to help support staff and community members affected by this event.

Thank you.



Glen Abernethy
Minister of Health and Social Services

c Mr. Tim Mercer
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. David Hastings
Legislative Coordinator
Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs