



DEC 11 2020

STEVE NORN
MLA, TU NEDHE WIILIDEH

Oral Question 461-19(2): Dental Practice in Small Communities

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on November 3, 2020 regarding Dental Practice in Small Communities.

There is no cost to the Government of the Northwest Territories for Non-Insured Health Benefit (NIHB) clients to access dental services in Yellowknife, Hay River or Inuvik. The costs are being paid by the federal government's NIHB program. The NWT Medical Travel Office has reported that since July 1, 2020, travel has been coordinated on behalf of NIHB for 403 NIHB clients to travel for access to dental services. Of the 403 clients, 271 traveled to Yellowknife, 106 traveled to Inuvik and 26 traveled to Hay River to access private practice dental clinics.

The Department of Health and Social Services has no way to know the extent of the backlog, as dental services are not managed by health system staff, but rather, are provided by private practice dentists who manage their own patients. The full extent to which the health system is involved in the delivery of dental services is through providing space within the health centres to allow these services to be delivered.

Thank you.

Julie Green
Minister of Health and Social Services

c Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Legislative Coordinator
Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs