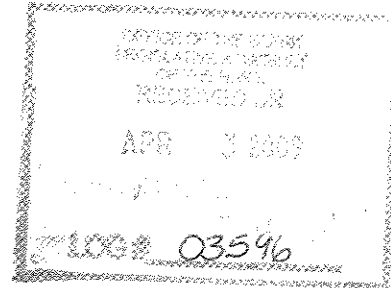




Northwest Territories Minister of Health and Social Services

APR 03 2009

MR. TIM MERCER
CLERK OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



Response of Petition 2-16(3)

Attached is the Response to Petition 2-16(3), tabled by Mrs. Jane Groenewegen on February 4, 2009.

Sandy Lee
Sandy Lee

Attachment

- c. Mr. Kevin O'Keefe
Legislative Coordinator

Noted April 7/09
May/June Session



Petition tabled by Mrs. Jane Groenewegen on February 4, 2009

Response by the Honourable Sandy Lee
Minister of Health and Social Services

Changes to Seniors' Health Benefits Programs

The proposed changes to the Supplementary Health Benefits Program and Catastrophic Drug Coverage Program were intended to assist residents, and their families, who have comparatively low income and who do not have access to any supplementary health care benefits. The policies to guide these programs were to come into effect on April 1, 2009.

On February 10, 2009, in response to concerns raised by the public and the Members of the Legislative Assembly about the proposed program, the Minister advised Committee of the Whole that implementation of the Supplementary Health Benefits Policy would be postponed until April 1, 2010 in order to facilitate a review of the program design necessary to advance the Policy's intent and to undertake full consultation with the Members of the House and stakeholders on the Policy's objectives and implementation.