



April 22, 2021

LESA SEMMLER
MLA, INUVIK TWIN LAKES

Oral Question 498-19(2): Culturally Sensitive Healthcare Services

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on February 4, 2021 regarding Culturally Sensitive Healthcare Services.

As you know, recent budget negotiations have resulted in an additional \$743,000 for the Department of Health and Social Services (Department) to establish an Indigenous Patient Advocate pilot program. The program will consist of 4 positions, one in each of the communities of Inuvik, Hay River, Fort Smith, and Yellowknife. These positions will be able to address the issues that you referred to in your question, by ensuring patients receive culturally safe care; cultural, spiritual and emotional support; and ongoing connection with family members, elders and community organizations while accessing services.

The Department will collaborate with the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority on next steps, and we hope to provide a status update on this work during the spring sitting. I trust this information is to your satisfaction.

Thank you.

Julie Green
Minister of Health and Social Services

c Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Legislative Coordinator
Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs