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HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM

The purpose of this program is to develop an educational program which will produce an effective work force to provide health and social services within the Northwest Territories.

Traditionally, health and social services have depended upon manpower recruited from southern Canada.

In order to develop a work force which utilizes Northerners to a larger degree at all levels of responsibility, and which meets the needs of Northerners from all cultural and language groups, it is necessary to design and provide a unique educational program in the North.

Health and Social Services personnel that are expected to be trained through this program include a basic level practitioner, certified nursing assistant, rehabilitation activities worker, ophthalmic technician, dental therapist, social services worker, registered nurse, and an advanced option in supervision and management.

The program must be decentralized. Components which are not highly specialized or clinical must be taught closer to home communities to allow easier access to them by Northern people.

However, it is necessary to provide a central institution to be used primarily as an administrative centre, learning resource development and distribution centre, and instructional centre for advanced courses.

Program planning, delivery, and evaluation, and program funding must be shared. The Department of Social Development is responsible for identifying occupational needs and sharing in program design and evaluation. It is responsible for capital funding. The Department of Education is responsible for program delivery and for sharing in program design and evaluation. It is responsible for operational funding.

The development of the concept has been finalized. An attempt is now being made to arrange funding. As soon as final approval for the program is provided, program development will commence.

