



January 10, 2022

CAITLIN CLEVELAND
MLA, KAM LAKE

Oral Question 791-19(2): Obstetrical Care

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on November 23, 2021 regarding Obstetrical Care.

The Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority continues to work with Alberta Health Services to support expectant clients impacted by the interruption of birthing services in the Northwest Territories. Expectant families have access to a comprehensive set of services and supports available to them when giving birth in Edmonton, Alberta. Services covered by our system for expectant parents giving birth in Edmonton, Alberta will not include doula services for now.

The health and social services system remains committed to designing, developing and testing a reproductive, perinatal, infant, child health and Indigenous birthwork model of care in the Northwest Territories. A key first step is to work with staff to identify and respond to short- and long-term needs towards quality and accessible delivery of perinatal health through the Stanton Obstetrics Working Group.

A key element in the design a model of care will, however, also include supporting community-based services to establish a doula workforce that provides cultural safe supports. This will require understanding the business model developed by lead non-governmental organizations when available and identifying funding options to subsidise doula services based on research conducted by key stakeholders as part of the model development.

Thank you.

Julie Green
Minister of Health and Social Services

c Principal Secretary
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Legislative Coordinator