



August 5, 2021

LESA SEMMLER
MLA, INUVIK TWIN LAKES

Oral Question 763-19(2): Nursing Human Resources

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on June 3, 2021 regarding Nursing Human Resources.

Thank you for your continued commitment to this issue. I can confirm that the Joint Territorial Nursing Committee (JTNC), which consists of nursing leadership from the Department of Health and Social Services, the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA), the Tlicho Community Services Agency, the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority, Aurora College, and the Registered Nurses Association of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (RNANTNU), have met to review the issues you have raised.

In 2005, RNANTNU conducted a Recruitment and Retention Survey for all its members. This work helped inform many of the incentives that have been created for Health and Social Services professionals in the Northwest Territories (NWT), such as the Professional Development Initiative. The JTNC is reviewing the 2005 survey and the survey results to determine if such an approach, conducted anonymously, may be valuable to repeat. The JTNC is also meeting with Human Resource representatives from the Department of Finance and the Health and Social Services System to consider further options, such as conducting Exit Interviews to specifically target nurses that have left the NWT or have changed their employment status.

In addition, the NTHSSA continues to work closely with the Union of Northern Workers local leadership at Stanton Territorial Hospital through the Joint Consultation Committee. This provides an avenue for frontline ideas and recommendations to be brought forward, including anonymous concerns, with a view of improving Stanton operations.

Thank you.

Julie Green
Minister of Health and Social Services

c A/Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Legislative Coordinator, Executive and Indigenous Affairs