



June 29, 2021

JACKIE JACOBSON
MLA, NUNAKPUT

Oral Question 723-19(2): Mental Health and Fatigue

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on May 28, 2021 regarding Mental Health and Fatigue.

The Department of Health and Social Services has several funding pots available to community governments to support activities related to mental wellness and addictions recovery. While these pots of funding are not specific to youth or to the COVID-19 pandemic, the funding can be used by community governments to address identified needs and enhance supports in their communities.

The On-the-Land Healing Fund provides multi-year funding to Regional and Community Indigenous Governments to support the delivery of land-based healing programs for mental wellness and addictions recovery. This funding is also available for mobile addictions treatment and aftercare. A total of \$1.825 million is available annually. Regional Governments can receive up to \$191,000 per year and Community Governments can receive up to \$96,000 per year. Funding is prioritized for Indigenous Governments up to September 1 of the fiscal year after, which time other Indigenous organizations may apply.

The Community Suicide Prevention Fund provides funding to support community-based suicide prevention activities across the territory. A total of \$225,000 is available annually, with a maximum of \$45,000 per project. This funding is distributed on a first-come first-served basis, with one project funded per community per year. Multi-year funding is not available under this fund.

The new Addictions Recovery Peer Support Fund is available for community-based peer support programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Wellbriety. Funding can be used for training in proprietary models and/or for costs associated with running a program, such as space rental, refreshments, etc. A total of \$280,000 is available annually on a first-come first-served basis, with \$100,000 allocated for Training Requirements and \$180,000 allocated for Basic Requirements.

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The Chief Operating Officer of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) Beaufort Delta region will reach out to SAOs in Nunakput to ensure they are aware of these funding opportunities.

With regards to a mental health team, there is limited capacity within existing resources to fly one into Nunakput communities at this time. The NTHSSA is therefore looking at options to have contracted mental health services available to the Nunakput communities as an interim measure.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JAGreen', written in a cursive style.

Julie Green
Minister of Health and Social Services

c A/Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Legislative Coordinator
Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs