

## RESPONSE TO PETITION

5-14(6)



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Petition tabled by Ms. Sandy Lee on June 6, 2003

Response by the Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger  
Minister of Health and Social Services

### Specialist Physicians at Stanton Territorial Hospital

On June 19, 2003, the Government of the Northwest Territories and NWT Physician Specialists reached agreement on a new contract. This contract, retroactive to April 1, 2002, is for a two-year period.

The agreement addresses market conditions caused by the high demand for, and national shortage of, specialists. The negotiated package places the NWT in a highly competitive position in the marketplace. It will assist in retaining Specialists already on staff and aid in building the Specialist workforce to its full complement of 21 positions.

Reaching this agreement was an important step towards stabilizing the provision of medical services in the NWT. The Department of Health and Social Services will continue working with the NWT Medical Association and the Authorities to ensure the long-term sustainability of physician and specialist services.

