



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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1-13(7)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Petition tabled by Mr. Krutko on March 22, 1999

Response by the Honourable Floyd K. Roland
Minister of Health and Social Services

THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

On April 28, 1999, I announced the details of the Minister's Forum on Health and Social Services. The Minister's Forum will provide the Department of Health and Social Services an opportunity to identify ways to improve the health and social services system.

Under the current system of governance, there are nine health and social services boards in the NWT. It is necessary to review the governance of the system to improve efficiencies and clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Department, boards, private service providers and non-profit organizations.

The recruitment and retention of doctors, nurses and social workers is an urgent issue in the NWT. Each of the nine boards is struggling to attract health and social service providers.

Our financial resources must be reviewed so we can create a sustainable system, with necessary economies of scale, that allows for effective community and/or regional governance.

There is also a need to remove gaps and duplication in delivering programs and services while, at the same time, increasing integration and improving coordination.

A key objective of the Forum will be to provide the public with information on social trends, expenditure pressures and projected forced growth. I believe that the Minister's Forum will stimulate an informed discussion on health. With this input, I am confident we can then make the changes necessary to sustain the highest level of care possible within existing resources. Therefore, I will not be recommending that the Premier request a Public Inquiry.

