



November 2, 2022

Caitlin Cleveland
MLA for Kam Lake
Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

Dear Ms. Cleveland,

I am writing to you today as the Executive Director of Fertility Matters Canada, the national voice of the 1 in 6 Canadians who struggle with infertility or who need access to fertility care to build their families. This includes heterosexual couples, members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community, and individuals.

Infertility is a medical disease of the male or female reproductive tract (World Health Organization, <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/infertility>). Research confirms that for those struggling with infertility, there is a significant negative impact on their mental health, their productivity at work and at home, and their personal relationships. As a country, our birth rate continues to decline. This is an important consideration for the economic future of Canada.

The average cost of one IVF treatment in Canada is \$20,000. As you are aware, residents of the Northwest Territories (NWT) are required to leave the territory to access advanced assisted reproductive care and therefore, have significantly more time and financing to consider when trying to build their families. It is critical that the government of the NWT establish a policy and financial support for those that require access to reproductive specialists and fertility care.

I welcome the opportunity to have a conversation with the current government to consider the significant negative impacts this disease has on residents of the Northwest Territories and to hear the stories of your constituents who are struggling. I would be pleased to help you better understand what other Canadian jurisdictions are doing to help make access to fertility care more equitable and accessible for its residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carolyn Dubé", written in a cursive style.

Carolynn Dubé
Executive Director, Fertility Matters Canada