



FEB 24 2020

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MLA, MONFWI

**Oral Question 21-19(2): Addictions Treatment and Aftercare on the Land**

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on February 7, 2020 regarding Addictions Treatment and Aftercare on the Land.

The Department of Health and Social Services (Department) supports Indigenous Governments to deliver land based healing initiatives through the On the Land Healing Fund. This means residents can receive supports for mental health and addictions healing closer to home. In 2019/20, the Department increased its annual \$1.23M allocation to the On the Land Healing Fund by \$730,000, for a total of almost \$2M. This new funding supports Indigenous Governments to deliver mobile addictions treatment, family based treatment and aftercare programming. These options can be used by residents who have attended addictions treatment as part of an aftercare plan but they can also be used by individuals who do not wish to attend treatment.

Eligible recipients to the On the Land Healing Fund are the 11 Regional and Community Indigenous Governments. Indigenous Governments are given priority for the funds until September 1<sup>st</sup> of the applicable fiscal year. After that time, other Indigenous community organizations are able to apply for any unallocated funds. Programs and program locations change year to year depending on the needs identified by the Regional and Community Indigenous Governments. Some regions divide the funding equally between communities while others deliver programs on a regional or rotational basis.

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To date the following Indigenous Government and organizations have signed Contribution Agreements and are delivering programming for 2019-2020:

- Deh Cho First Nations
- Gwich'in Tribal Council
- Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
- NWT Métis Nation
- Tlicho Government
- Salt River First Nation
- On the Land Collaborative

With regard to your questions on southern addictions treatment facilities, the Department is currently in contract with four treatment facilities in the south to deliver addictions treatment to Northwest Territories (NWT) residents: Poundmakers Lodge (St. Albert, AB), Fresh Start Recovery Centre (Calgary, AB), Aventa Treatment Centre for Women (Calgary, AB), Edgewood Treatment Centre (Nanaimo, BC).

The Department entered into these contracts in September 2013 when the most recent NWT treatment centre (Nat'se'jee K'eh) closed. As such, the total expense for the use of southern facilities over the last 10 years is not available. The historical budget for the operation of Nat'se'jee K'eh Treatment Centre was \$2,096,000 annually. The funding originally allocated for Nat'se'jee K'eh is currently used for contracts with the four southern treatment facilities. Since taking over treatment in 2013/2014, 907 residents have attended one of the contracted southern facilities, and the combined expense for these services is \$12, 680,933.

<b>Southern Treatment Centre</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
Nat'se'jee K'eh Treatment Centre (Contract expired September 30, 2013)	617,029					
Aventa Treatment Foundation for Women	225,271	386,108	387,204	474,333	502,850	504,880
Edgewood		240,530	855,255	987,928	1,115,819	1,455,446
Fresh Start Recovery Centre	137,325	276,847		258,120	409,880	381,960
Poundmaker's Lodge	168,000	660,373	717,514	487,850	751,660	678,749
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,147,625</b>	<b>1,563,858</b>	<b>1,959,973</b>	<b>2,208,232</b>	<b>2,780,209</b>	<b>3,021,036</b>

To date, in 2019/20, 203 residents have attended addiction treatment in the south.

Thank you.



Diane Thom  
Minister of Health and Social Services

c Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Legislative Coordinator  
Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs