



Government of
Northwest Territories

March 22, 2023

LISA SEMMLER
MLA, INUVIK TWIN LAKES

Oral Question 1435-19(2): Dental Hygienist Regulations

This letter is to follow up to the Oral Questions you raised on March 6, 2023 regarding Dental Hygienist Regulations.

The Department of Health and Social Services (Department) has an application process in place for professions to be considered for regulation under the *Health and Social Services Profession Act*. To date, the Department has not received any enquiries or an application from dental hygienists in the Northwest Territories (NWT) indicating interest in this area.

Delivery of dental services is not part of the NWT health and social services system. Dental treatment remains the exclusive domain of private dental practices. As such, the Department has no authority to dictate how dental providers deliver their scope of practice.

Access to dental services for Indigenous residents eligible for the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program is funded by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) through a contribution agreement with the Department. The Department, on behalf of ISC, enters contracts to pay for the travel costs of dental providers to provide dental services in communities. ISC determines the number of dental days allocated to each community and funding is in accordance with this number.

The Department does not collect information related to services delivered by dental providers. ISC's Non-Insured Health Benefits program may be able to provide this information and can be reached at nihb-ssna@sac-isc.gc.ca

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JAGreen".

Julie Green
Minister, Health and Social Services

c. Principal Secretary
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly