



November 25, 2024

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Oral Question 340-20(1): Supported Living Review and Recommendations

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on October 22, 2024, regarding the implementation of recommendations made in the 2022 Supported Living Review Report.

The Department of Health and Social Services (Department) accepted 12 of the 33 recommendations made where work can progress within existing resources. The remaining 21 recommendations have been accepted in-principle but cannot progress until additional resources are identified.

Advancing the accepted recommendations is intended to:

- Align the scope of Supported Living (SL) services with the NWT Disability Strategic Framework and best practices for supporting adults with disabilities and their caregivers.
- Provide the mechanism to monitor the efficiency and effectiveness of SL.
- Increase public awareness of SL services.
- Increase collaboration across Departments to address gaps in social supports for adults with disability.

In April 2023, a Working Group composed of staff from the Department and all three Health and Social Services Authorities (HSSA) was established to advance work on the accepted recommendations, and to identify the required incremental resources for the recommendations accepted in- principle.

Progress on accepted recommendations is being made and includes:

- An updated definition and scope for Supported Living services, in line with review findings and best practice has been developed and is in final stages of approval,
- Standards for Supported Living services are being drafted,
- A Supported Living performance monitoring framework is nearing completion and is expected to be final in late 2024
 - this includes indicators for service user satisfaction and data reporting requirements for monitoring outcomes, efficiency, and effectiveness,
- A Working Group has been established to lead the development of common policies, processes, and tools for administering in-territory and out-of-territory Supported Living service,

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- Engagement with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment is being initiated to determine ways in which all SL service users can equitably access income assistance programs, and
- Engagement with Housing NWT is being initiated to explore access to housing for individuals with disabilities.

The Working Group has also prioritized the following recommendations that have been accepted in-principle:

- Adequately resource the HSSAs to provide SL assessment, service planning, case management and service user monitoring.
- Expand in-territory SL services to include more communities and more service options so more persons with disabilities can receive SL services within the NWT.
- Develop enhanced behaviour supports in-territory to support service users with high risk, complex and aggressive behaviors.
- Increase caregiver supports including expansion of respite services to communities outside of Yellowknife, and overnight respite options.

Ongoing funding for these recommendations has not yet been identified; however, the Department was able to internally allocate third-party funding for 2024-25 and 2025-26 to temporarily support:

- enhancement of day respite services across the NWT,
- supported living services in Yellowknife, and
- Adult Service Worker positions to support admission to SL; coordination and navigation of supports; and case management.

The Department will continue to work towards securing increased stable funding to implement these recommendations beyond 2025-26.

Thank you.



Lesla Semmler
Minister of Health and Social Services

c Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Director, Legislative Affairs and House Planning