



November 25, 2024

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MLA, YELLOWKNIFE NORTH

Oral Question 342-20(1): Primary Care Reform

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on October 22, 2024, regarding vacancy statistics for health practitioners.

I committed to provide the you with the most recent vacancy data for health practitioners, specifically for physicians, registered nurses (RNs), nurse practitioner (NPs), and licensed practical nurses (LPNs).

As of June 30, 2024, the vacancy rate for physicians within the NTHSSA was 48.6%, compared to 48.7% as of March 31, 2024, as identified in the table.

| | Mar 23 | Jun 23 | Sep 23 | Dec 23 | Mar 24 | Jun 24 |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Family Physicians | 50.3% | 50.3% | 49.7% | 51.9% | 48.8% | 49.6% |
| Specialists | 41.6% | 41.6% | 41.2% | 44.4% | 48.4% | 46.3% |
| Total | 47.6% | 47.6% | 47.1% | 49.6% | 48.7% | 48.6% |

Physician recruitment is ongoing, with vacant family physician and physician specialist positions being actively recruited, including:

- Family physicians in Fort Smith, Hay River, Inuvik, the Tłı̨chǫ Region, and Yellowknife;
- Family physicians with enhanced surgical skills or obstetrical surgical skills in Inuvik;
- Family physicians in Yellowknife, with enhanced skills in obstetrics, and emergency;
- Physician specialists in Yellowknife, including general surgery, internal medicine and/or gastroenterology, obstetrics & gynecology, ENT, and ophthalmology.

Further, the vacancy rates across the NTHSSA for nursing positions for the last three quarters, are listed in the table below.

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| Occupational Grouping | Total Vacancy Rate | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Dec 23 | Mar 24 | Jun 24 |
| Licensed Practical Nurse | 27.1% | 24.3% | 22.8% |
| Nurse Practitioners | 40.0% | 36.0% | 36.0% |
| Registered Nurse | 26.8% | 29.7% | 27.7% |

Thank you.



Lesla Semmler
Minister of Health and Social Services

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