



November 25, 2024

RICHARD EDJERICON
MLA, TU NEDHÉ – WIILIDEH

Oral Question 369-20(1): Dene Nation Healthcare Concerns

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on October 24, 2024, regarding addiction treatment programs for youth and adults. You asked for information on addiction treatment options for youth and adults living in the NWT.

The Department of Health and Social Services (Department) is currently in contract with five bed-based accredited addictions treatment facilities for adults in the south, which provide specialized addictions treatment services to NWT residents aged 18 years and older:

- Fresh Start Recovery Centre (Calgary, AB)
- Aventa Treatment Foundation for Women (Calgary, AB)
- Edgewood Treatment Centre (Nanaimo, BC)
- Sunrise Healing Lodge (Calgary, AB)
- Renascent (Toronto, ON)

The Department has contracts with seven licensed and accredited specialized services throughout BC, Alberta, and Saskatchewan, where access to addiction treatment services can be available for children and youth:

- Ranch Erhlo- Family Treatment Services (Regina, SK)
- Ranch Erhlo – Youth Services (Regina, SK)
- Woods Homes (Calgary, AB)
- Catholic Social Services (Edmonton, AB)
- Excel Society (Edmonton, AB)
- PLEA Community Services (Vancouver, BC)
- Parkland Community Living (Red Deer, AB)

The Department has issued a request for proposals to secure contractor(s) to provide more support for children and youth with complex needs, who require specialized services. More information will be available regarding the successful contractor(s) in the winter of 2025.

In addition to contracted addictions treatment options, a variety of other programs are available to support individuals, recognizing there is no one size fits all approach.

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The Community Counselling Program is offered in all regions of the NWT, delivering free and confidential services to support people on their individual path to recovery.

Several free eMental Health programs are also available to all NWT residents, making support easily accessible at a time and place that works for them. This includes Breathing Room and Strongest Families Institute, as well as EHN Online (Wagon App) which is an addictions specific virtual aftercare program for individuals over the age of 18. A list of all mental wellness and recovery programs is available on the Department's website [Mental Wellness and Addictions Recovery | Health and Social Services](#).

The Department also provides access to Community Support Funds, which Indigenous Governments and community organizations can apply for. To date this fiscal year, more than \$3.6M has been allocated, for various community-led projects to support wellness and addictions recovery. This has helped support various on-the-land community programs, including but not limited to:

- On the Land Healing in Yellowknife (Arctic Indigenous Wellness Foundation)
- Journey to my Best Self-Healing Program (Dehcho First Nations)
- On the Land Healing Camp in Deline
- Gwich'in Wellness Camp (Gwich'in Tribal Council)
- On the Land Healing Camp and Mobile Treatment Services (Kát'odeeche First Nation)
- On-the-Land Healing Camp in the Tłı̨chǫ region
- On the Land Healing Program in Yellowknife (Yellowknives Dene First Nation)

Thank you.



Lesla Semmler
Minister, Health and Social Services

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