

LEGISLATIVE RETURN

SUBMITTED BY: Pauline Frost, Minister of Health and Social Services



1. On Monday, March 19th, 2018, MLA McLeod

asked the following oral question at page(s) 2116_____of *Hansard*

submitted the following written question – WQ No. _____

gave notice of the following motion for the production of papers – MPP No. _____

RE: Opening of Watson Lake HUB

OR

2. This legislative return relates to a matter outstanding from discussion related to:

_____ on _____ at page(s) _____ of *Hansard*.

The response is as follows:

The issue of mental wellness was clearly top of mind for most community residents when I met with them last June. Since that time, my staff have been focused on providing the right supports at the right time in each community.

Watson Lake is one of four hubs within Yukon to provide a range of counselling and pre and post care for substance use. We know this is an important need for the community. The other hubs will be in Haines Junction, Dawson City and Carmacks, as well as services in Whitehorse.

The Watson Lake Mental Wellness and Substance Use hub will officially open on Friday, March 23, 2018. A small opening ceremony and open house are planned for the day, beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the recreational centre.

The Watson Lake Hub will provide services to Watson Lake residents, and specialist services to Teslin and Carcross/Tagish. In Teslin and Carcross, there will also be individual counsellors who will be providing support including mental wellness counsellors, child and youth counsellors, and Many Rivers who are currently providing supports in these two communities on an itinerant basis.

Over the last two years, we had added an additional substance use counsellor in Watson Lake.

With the new hub, we can now provide a one-door access to services for children and youth who have experienced trauma, mental wellness and mental wellness supports as well as pre and post care related to substance use.

There is a 1-800- number for people wishing to make an appointment or people can drop into the office. We have reduced waiting lists for services from several months down to a week.

With the new hub model we will be providing individual counselling, outreach services, community supports when crisis in community as well as coordination of services when a person requires inpatient treatment in Whitehorse through Sarah Steele or Whitehorse General Hospital.

We will be working very closely to coordinate supports with Many Rivers and school counsellors within the school communities. This is a free confidential service focussed on the needs of the individual and will grow over time.

We have brought together a team of specialists who can support the services in Watson Lake but also Teslin and Carcross. Clinical supervision has been a key focus for us to make sure there is high quality of supports so we have two clinical supervisors to support the hubs as well as a new director of Mental Wellness and Substance Use to ensure the integrated supports of our services meet the needs of Yukoners.

Services will be provided to groups, individuals and families. It is not just focussed on treatment but also around promotion of mental wellness.

Full time staff will reside in Watson Lake. The staff include two mental wellness and substance use counsellors, a clinical counsellor and a child and youth counsellor. The child and youth counsellor has not yet been hired but an itinerant worker is currently covering this position. A mental wellness nurse has yet to be hired. There will also be resident staff in Teslin and Carcross/Tagish.

In addition, Many Rivers is contracted by Health and Social Services to provide two counsellors, one specific for youth working in the school community, and the other is a general counsellor.

This information will be available to Watson Lake and area residents through a variety of tools available to us. The website is being updated to coincide with the official opening of the hub. We will be using social media and tools available in Watson Lake, such as the Watson Lake Sunshine community Facebook page.

Information sheets and FAQs are also available on our website currently to talk about the generalized services of the new hubs.

March 22, 2018
Date



Signature



Office of the Minister
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6
March 22, 2018

Patty McLeod
MLA, Watson Lake
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Dear Ms. McLeod

RE: OPENING OF THE WATSON LAKE HUB

Further to the concerns you raised in the Yukon Legislative Assembly on Monday, March 19, 2018, I am pleased to provide the following details around mental health services in Watson Lake.

The issue of mental wellness was clearly top of mind for most community residents when I met with them last June. Since that time, my staff have been focussed on providing the right supports at the right time in each community.

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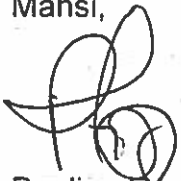
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Mahsi,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pauline Frost', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Pauline Frost
Minister of Health and Social Services
