

**LEGISLATIVE RETURN**



**SUBMITTED BY: Hon. Sandy Silver**

1. On April 20, 2017, Stacey Hassard, Member for Pelly-Nisutlin
- asked the following oral question at page(s) \_\_\_\_\_ of *Hansard*
  - submitted the following written question – WQ No. 10
  - gave notice of the following motion for the production of papers – MPP No. \_\_\_\_\_
- RE: \_\_\_\_\_

**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:

Attached is the letter provided in response to the same written question submitted by the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin on January 12, 2017.

May 1, 2017  
Date

  
Signature



February 28, 2017

Mr. Stacey Hassard  
Leader of the Official Opposition  
Yukon Legislative Assembly  
Box 2703  
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Dear Mr. *Stacey* Hassard:

**Re: Written Question No. 10**

The following information is provided in response to your questions:

1. With regard to the ongoing discussions on healthcare transfers between the federal government and the Council of the Federation will the Premier provide an update regarding:
  - a. Whether northern health care was discussed at the recent Health Ministers Meeting in Ottawa;
    - i. If so, what was the content of those discussions and what did Yukon agree to;
    - ii. If not, did the Government of Yukon ask for northern health care to be on the agenda:
      1. If so, why was the Government of Yukon unsuccessful at having northern health care discussed?
      2. If not, why not?

The Canada Health Transfer was discussed at the December 19, 2016 meeting of federal, provincial and territorial Finance ministers. Health ministers were invited to join the meeting for a specific discussion on the Canada Health Transfer. Provincial and territorial finance and health ministers and the federal government did not come to an agreement on the Canada Health Transfer at this meeting. On behalf of Yukon, I raised our specific challenges in delivering healthcare in the North, including the high cost of medical travel and the pressing need to address home care and mental health challenges.

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I made similar points to the Prime Minister on December 9, 2016 at a meeting of Canada's premiers and the Prime Minister to discuss health care. I emphasized that to meet the fundamental tenets of the *Canada Health Act*, Yukon needs to see stable, predictable funding beyond the per-capita based Canada Health Transfer in order to ensure Yukoners have a level of care that is sustainable and equitable to other parts of the country.

Minister Frost made similar points to her federal counterpart in a meeting on February 6, 2017.

**2. The status of the negotiations:**

Yukon and the other territories reached an agreement in principle with the federal government on health care funding on January 16, 2017. Various provincial governments continue to negotiate with the federal government. Yukon's agreement includes a clause that ensures that if any other province reaches an agreement with the federal government that contains better financial terms, the territories will be able to adopt those terms.

**3. The projected amounts to be received by the Government of Yukon under the federal government's current proposal through:**

- a. The annual federal health transfers, and;
- b. The Territorial Health Investment Fund which is set to expire in 2018.

Over the next ten years, Yukon will receive \$6.2 million to support better home care. Over the same period, Yukon will receive new funding of \$5.2 million for mental health initiatives. The targeted investments in home care and mental health care are in addition to the funding provided through the Canada Health Transfer (CHT) of three per cent annually or the rate of national GDP growth, whichever is higher. CHT funding is expected to total about \$440 million over the next ten years.

The Territorial Health Investment Fund (THIF) is set to end this year but the project funding has been rolled over to 2017-2018. I and Minister Frost continue to urge the federal government to extend THIF. We are hopeful that the forthcoming federal budget will be positive in this regard.

**4. The projected amount to be received by the Government of Yukon under a funding escalator of 6% through:**

- a. The annual federal health transfers, as well as;
- b. The Territorial Health Investment Fund (THIF) which is set to expire in 2018.

Under a six per cent escalator, Yukon will receive \$37.261 million in 2016-2017 through the Canada Health Transfer. Territorial health funding under THIF is separate from the arrangements on the CHT. The THIF does not have an escalator applied to it. The amount is set out in the agreement. The budgeted amount for THIF for 2016-2017 is \$12.5 million and will carry over into 2017-2018. This includes project funding and pan-territorial initiatives.

5. **Whether the Government of Yukon is in favour of the current federal proposal to provide health transfers with a 3% escalator or whether they believe the escalator for health transfers should be returned to 6%;**

The Government of Yukon is in favour of an agreement that ensures that Yukon residents can access additional funding to address specific and critical health care needs. As of April 1, 2017, Yukon would have received only the existing legislated commitments through the Canada Health Transfer (CHT) of three per cent annually or the rate of national GDP growth, whichever is higher. Because the CHT is allocated on a per-capita basis, the CHT is a small component of Yukon's overall funding arrangements with Canada. Since the CHT makes up a small component of Yukon's health care funding arrangement, Yukon took the opportunity to negotiate and agree to additional and new funding in the critical areas of mental health and home care.

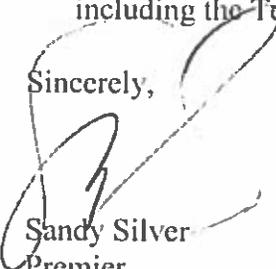
Yukon will continue to support Canada's premiers in seeking a multilateral agreement.

6. **Whether the Government of Yukon will ensure the funding received is:**
- a. **Kept at a sustainable level and;**
  - b. **Allocated in a way that ensures the quality of delivery is maintained in all healthcare sectors.**

The Government of Yukon is committed to the long-term sustainability of Yukon's health system and delivery of quality healthcare for Yukoners. Predictable and sustainable funding helps the government plan to use health care funding in the best way to meet legislated requirements, emerging and existing needs. Yukon's ten-year agreement for mental health and home care funding will allow the government to undertake planning and delivery of programming to ensure better outcomes over the long-term.

Yukon is working with Canada to ensure the long-term sustainability of health care funding, including the Territorial Health Investment Fund.

Sincerely,



Sandy Silver  
Premier