

## **Backgrounder for News Release**

### **Chairperson-designate named for the NWT Health and Social Services Territorial Health Leadership Council**

- Since 2012, the Minister of Health and Social Services has worked collaboratively with Chairs, Public Administrators, Aboriginal Governments, and other key stakeholders to determine how to improve patient care, increase efficiency and sustainability and improve accountability for performance of the system.
- On August 19, 2014, the Department released a discussion paper on the proposed new structure, titled *Caring for our People: Improving the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services System* along with a survey to receive public feedback on the proposed changes.
- In spring 2015, Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted Public Hearings to gather public input and feedback on Bill 44. Their report 17-17(5) was presented June 2, 2015 in the Legislative Assembly.
- On June 4, 2015, Bill 44: *An Act to Amend the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Act* received assent in the Legislative Assembly.
- The assent of Bill 44 in the Legislative Assembly provides the legislative mechanism to bring the health and social services system together.
  - At the same time, Bill 44 provides provisions to bring the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority into the public service at a later date; and
  - Recognizes the special status of the Tlicho Community Services Agency (TCSA), who will remain a separate board of management under the Tlicho self-government agreement.
- April 1, 2016, is the date set for establishment of the Territorial Health and Social Services Authority (THSSA).
- The move to a single territorial health and social services authority is intended to strengthen the ongoing work being done to improve the system.
- To support the transition to a single Authority, work will be undertaken in the coming months to draft new regulations under the Act.

- Work also includes the development of the Territorial Health and Social Services Authority (THSSA) and Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) organizational structures, and finalizing the implementation plan for the full transition to the new structure.
- A recruitment process for the new THSSA CEO will also be initiated.

### Health and Social Services System Model:

The organizational model has been developed through extensive consultations with the Standing Committee on Social Programs (SCOSP), Aboriginal governments, communities and other key HSS System stakeholder groups, and consists of:

1. One territorial operating structure, to be known as the Territorial Health and Social Services Authority (THSSA); which reports to,
  2. One territorial governance board, to be known as the Territorial Health and Social Services Leadership Council (HSSLC) with members to include chairs of regional health and social service advisory bodies (Regional Wellness Councils), and one Chair appointed by the Minister of HSS.
- The Regional Wellness Councils are advisory bodies that will provide a regional voice at the territorial level.
  - The move towards one Territorial Health Authority will create a more coordinated system of management and administration, and improve the level of care available.