



FAQ

Establishment of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority

Why is transformation happening?

The current health and social services system relies on eight different authorities, working separately. This has proved to be a systemic barrier to patient care and efficiency. With the staff, technology and resources we have today, we should be able to offer better care to our residents. To make better use of what we have, we need to modernize our health and social services system.

What are the goals of transformation?

To break down barriers that can happen when patients and clients receive care in multiple Health and Social Services Authorities. We will better meet the needs of our residents by:

- Improving coordination of our services;
- Ensuring community and regional input into Territorial programs;
- Maximizing the use of our human resources, facilities and every dollar we spend;
- Making our system more responsive to the needs of our residents; and
- Enhancing frontline and community based patient-client care.

This will result in improved outcomes for our residents, and improved accountability for the performance of our system.

What will transformation look like? How is the new system structured?

The Department of Health and Social Services will continue its “ministry” function, setting standards and policy frameworks. It will lead business and strategic planning, resource allocations, and monitoring.

The Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (THSSA) will be created to administer the design and delivery of territorial health and social service programs, along with operation of territorial facilities. It will be responsible for clinical and professional leadership and physician services, among others.

Regional Wellness Councils (RWC) will represent Hay River, Fort Smith, Sahtu, Dehcho, Beaufort Delta, and Yellowknife. These 7 person councils will provide guidance and ensure a representative voice within the system.

The chair of each Regional Wellness Council will sit on the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Leadership Council, along with the Chair of the Tlicho Community Services Agency. These individuals will serve as the board of management for the THSSA, along with a Chair appointed by the Minister



When is transformation happening?

August 1st 2016 is our implementation date for the launch of the THSSA. Changes to the system will continue to happen after this date as the establishment is the first milestone that allows for many of the future changes to happen.

How will this affect the delivery of care and services?

There will be no immediate changes to the way residents access care and services in the Territory. They will continue to receive the same high-quality care they received prior to August 1st.

As changes in the system are made it is expected that care will be easier to access, more consistent, and more appropriate to the needs of those who access it.

What changes can be expected for the Tlicho Community Services Agency and Hay River Health and Social Services Authority?

The Tlicho Community Services Agency will continue to be a Board of Management under the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act. The establishment of the new Authority will respect the legislation that establishes the TCSA which was implemented as a result of the Tlicho Self Government Agreement.

Hay River Health and Social Services Authority employees will remain in their organization until negotiations can be completed at a future point that will allow for them to be brought into the public service. The new authority will continue to work with the TCSA and HRSSA

Are we doing this to save money?

No. We will be doing everything in our power to ensure that we maintain comparable staff levels in all regions, recognizing that functions will change over time.

The goal of creating efficiencies in the system is to be able to increase sustainability and improve our ability to mitigate increased demand and rising costs.