



FOR RELEASE  
September 18, 2014

## **Arrival of second nurse practitioner benefits Yukon patients directly**

WHITEHORSE—Yukon has its second nurse practitioner working in the territory at the Referred Care Clinic (RCC) in Whitehorse. The announcement was made today by Minister of Health and Social Services Doug Graham and RCC medical director Dr. Sharon Lazeo.

"I'm pleased to see further progress made on the government's commitments to improve Yukoners' access to medical professionals and collaborative care. The addition of a nurse practitioner will help expand both the number of patients that can be seen and the manner in which health care services are provided," Graham said.

Raquel de Queiroz comes to Yukon from B.C., bringing with her 10 years of experience in acute and primary care, women's health, mental health and addictions, emergency response, general practice, tropical medicine and critical care.

In addition, de Queiroz has served as the clinic instructor of registered nurse undergraduates at the University of British Columbia. She has also worked with Doctors without Borders.

In 2012, Yukon passed legislation to enable licensing of nurse practitioners among other Yukon health care providers. The first nurse practitioner was hired to work in continuing care.

"We are entering a new era in health care," Graham said. "We are moving toward a more integrated, collaborative manner of health care that expands the group of providers from the traditional physician model and improves timely access to care."

"The entire Referred Care Clinic team looks forward to adding the nurse practitioner to the team. This will allow us to expand our services within a collaborative model of care," Lazeo said.

De Queiroz began her contract in early September.

-30-

### **Contact:**

Elaine Schiman  
Cabinet Communications  
867-633-7961  
elaine.schiman@gov.yk.ca

Pat Living  
Communications, Health and Social Services  
867-667-3673  
patricia.living@gov.yk.ca

*News Release #14-211*