



FOR RELEASE
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Collaboration is keystone to improving health and social services for Yukoners

WHITEHORSE—Minister of Health and Social Services Doug Graham today released *A Clinical Services Plan for Yukon*, a roadmap for the long-term evolution of health and social services in Yukon.

"Every health and social system in Canada is under pressure today as demographics and demands change and grow. This evidence-based report offers a flexible decision-making tool to help us provide sustainable and reliable services now and into the future, both on the health and social services sides," Graham said.

The plan – prepared by Health Intelligence Inc. and associates – is the result of six months of work that involved analytical studies as well as discussions with health care providers, social service professionals, First Nations and community leaders throughout Yukon.

This data-driven plan provides a comprehensive picture of existing Yukon services and resources. It emphasizes collaborative practices between health professionals and social professionals, and offers suggestions on how to move forward. It also stresses the importance of using current data to determine needs over wants, and guides decision-making about how best to address present gaps and inequities.

"We want to create a blended approach to care. This plan will guide that process, and help us refine our approach so we can develop a high-quality, holistic and patient-centred system that will better serve Yukon citizens," Graham added. "Ultimately we want any door into the health system to be the right door, where individuals get the right service at the right time by the right provider."

The report was presented last week to health providers, departmental staff, stakeholders and organizations throughout Yukon including First Nations.

"This is the start of a new journey on how we manage and operate health and social care in Yukon," Graham added. "Our next step is to analyze the report to determine short-, medium- and long-term goals. For example, a short-term win is providing more services to rural patients through tele-health virtual consultation from Whitehorse and southern specialists."

The report's recommendations will be considered by the department with the intent of having an implementation plan developed by 2015.

Learn more:

View the Clinical Services Plan for Yukon at hss.gov.yk.ca.

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