



FOR RELEASE

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Premier and minister represent Yukon at national health agenda meeting

WHITEHORSE—Premier Darrell Pasloski and Minister of Health and Social Services Doug Graham will ensure Yukon's voice is heard at the April 3 meeting of the Health Care Innovation Working Group (HCIWG) meeting in Toronto.

"I'm looking forward to continuing the work of the Innovation Working Group," Pasloski said. The premier is co-chair of the committee along with Premier Wynne of Ontario and Premier Hancock of Alberta. "We've already seen positive results, with more to come. For example, we are achieving lower prices for brand name and generic drugs."

The working group was established in 2012 by Canada's premiers to help drive health transformation and innovation for the sustainable delivery of health care services.

"Ensuring that we have effective health services is of utmost importance," Graham said. "Yukon is looking at creating a more integrated system. We need to provide the right service by the right provider at the right time, in ways that make sense for Yukon's small and widely spread population."

The HCIWG has added seniors care to the scope of its work and is looking at how to strengthen supports for "aging in place" – helping people to stay in their own homes for as long as possible.

"Supporting people who want to stay in their homes and their communities for as long as possible is important," Graham added. "At the same time, we recognize the need for long-term beds for people who need that extra level of care."

The premier concluded: "Yukon's population is small and spread out over large distances. Co-chairing this premiers' committee ensures the unique challenges of delivering health services to northern and rural Canadians are considered."

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