

FOR RELEASE
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Home care expansion increases in-home supports and services

Note: An earlier version of this news release contained an error. The budget for home care has increased by 364 per cent since 2002, not 2011 as the earlier version stated. The error is corrected in this version.

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon has identified \$244,000 in this year's budget to expand home care services in Yukon, subject to legislative approval.

"This funding will allow us to add three home care staff, or another 5,850 hours of service to increase in-home supports for Yukon seniors and others requiring specialized care," Minister of Health and Social Services Mike Nixon said. "Since 2002, our government has increased the budget for home care by 364 per cent and added approximately 22,000 hours of service since 2011."

The addition of three staff brings the total home care complement to 29.75 full-time equivalents (FTEs) this year. In addition, the Yukon Palliative Care resource team received permanent funding last year, adding another three FTEs to the total.

"Our government is committed to helping seniors and Elders stay in their own homes as long as possible. We fully appreciate that people want to age in place and we are dedicated to helping individuals and their families make that happen. And when growing old at home is no longer feasible, we have other supports in place," Nixon added.

Home care services are offered free of charge to all Yukoners who require it.

Home care professionals include nurses, social workers, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, home support workers and therapy assistants. Services include medical support, counselling, bathing, light housekeeping and meal preparation, as well as assistance with daily living activities.

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