

FOR RELEASE
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Territories reach new health care agreement with Canada

Premiers from Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have reached an agreement with the federal government on behalf of their governments which will increase federal funding to improve health care for northern residents.

Under the agreement, the three territories will receive an estimated \$36.1 million in new funding over the next 10 years. The agreement is in addition to the annual increase to the Canada Health Transfer payments of three per cent annually or the rate of national GDP growth, whichever is higher.

The territories agree that their jurisdictions face unique and costly challenges in delivering health care to residents. This deal will ensure northerners continue to receive quality health-care services.

Northern premiers remain in agreement that this arrangement represents a significant first step towards ensuring sustainable health care funding, and that further discussion should take place among Health ministers to ensure that the unique circumstances of the territories continue to be met.

Quotes

"The Government of Yukon is pleased to have reached a health-care funding agreement with the Government of Canada which will help us address the priorities of Yukoners. This funding provided by our federal partners ensures that Yukon residents can access the health care they need."

—*Yukon Premier Sandy Silver*

"Health care in the North faces unique challenges and additional funding from Canada for seniors and mental health will help provide better care to some of our most vulnerable residents."

—*Northwest Territories Premier Bob McLeod*

"This additional funding for home care and mental health initiatives is welcome in Nunavut and supports the overall wellness and needs of our residents."

—*Nunavut Premier Peter Taptuna*

Quick facts

- This agreement comes following a meeting of federal, provincial and territorial finance ministers in Ottawa on December 19, 2016.
- The agreement includes a clause that ensures that if any other province reaches an agreement with the federal government that contains better financial terms, the territories will be able to adopt those terms.
- Over the coming weeks, each government will develop a detailed plan on how their portion of the funds will be spent within their respective territories.
- The agreement comes into effect on April 1, 2017.

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