



Government of Yukon

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FOR RELEASE #11-112
 July 28, 2011



Yukon government working with physicians to create community clinic option

WHITEHORSE—Health and Social Services is asking members of the Yukon medical community to work together with government to set up a community health clinic in downtown Whitehorse to provide health care to clients with complex needs.

Health and Social Services Minister Glenn Hart announced today that government has issued a call to medical clinics in Whitehorse for expressions of interest to operate an outpatient community clinic.

"We see this as a clear solution to providing services to those Yukon residents who are seeking access to health care and counselling related to addictions, pain management, and mental health issues," Hart said. "This is all part of our commitment to increasing social inclusion and improving the health and wellness of all Yukoners."

Currently, the emergency room at Whitehorse General Hospital is seeing an influx of patients who have more complex needs than can be met by an emergency room visit.

"Many of these clients could be redirected to the community clinic for more comprehensive and sustaining care than can be achieved in a brief encounter in the ER," Whitehorse physician Ken Quong said.

The minister said the department is looking to work with physicians to obtain clinic space, reception and examination rooms. The plan is for the clinic to operate three days a week, staffed part time by a physician, a social worker and an addictions counsellor.

"We know that we need to look outside the box to find new options for providing health care for all of our citizens, no matter what their needs," Hart added. "We believe that working with the local medical community may be the answer."

The deadline for proposals has been set for August 5. The clinic could open as early as September.

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