



FOR RELEASE
November 28, 2013

Referred Care Clinic expansion good example of collaborative care

WHITEHORSE—The Yukon government is moving to provide more collaborative care options by expanding a medical clinic in Whitehorse.

"For the past two years we have operated the referred care clinic for individuals with complex care needs who previously were visiting the emergency room," Minister of Health and Social Services Doug Graham said. "This new clinic concept has already brought together a physician, an outreach worker and a mental health nurse to provide a fuller scope of services for some hard to serve clients. I am happy to report that we have added two more physicians to the mix and are actively seeking a nurse practitioner to round out that team."

The minister added that collaborative care is about more than co-location of services. It is about building teams of appropriate health care providers to provide the right care at the right time.

Dr. Sharon Lazeo is the lead physician in the clinic and said she is extremely pleased with the clinic's expansion.

"Plans are underway to expand who else can refer patients to our services, other than Whitehorse General Hospital," Lazeo said. "This change, coupled with the additional health care providers, will mean we can provide more services to a larger number of individuals who need this type of care."

Complex care clients can have issues with addictions or mental health, in addition to health conditions.

"The referred care clinic is an excellent example of how government and health care providers can work together to achieve our common goals and improve health outcomes," Graham added.

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News Release #13-304

