

FOR RELEASE
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Common issues give ministers opportunities to share

VANCOUVER—Minister of Health and Social Services Mike Nixon says discussions at both the provincial territorial health ministers' meeting on Wednesday and a meeting today with the federal Minister of Health Dr. Jane Philpott were positive and forward-thinking.

Provincial and territorial health ministers talked about the importance of improving care for young people outgrowing child and youth mental health and substance use services, and moving into the adult systems. Mental health is also part of the federal, provincial and territorial agenda.

"We all recognize we need to better meet the mental health needs of young people and children to create better outcomes later in life," Nixon said. "The new *FRIENDS* initiative, with Bell Let's Talk and Northwestel, and the upcoming Yukon Mental Wellness Strategy address the issues raised in this area."

Nixon also welcomed the discussion on Indigenous health and noted that most of the work to address gaps between Indigenous health and non-Indigenous health will be done at the provincial and territorial levels.

The minister enjoyed meeting with his colleagues and looks forward to working with them and the federal government on the broader health agenda, including a focus on community, home care, mental health, pharmaceuticals and innovation.

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