

## **NTHSSA to Undertake Notification in Privacy Breach**

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 19, 2018)** – Beginning today the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) will start patient notification in relation to a recent breach of health information that occurred in Fort Simpson, Northwest Territories.

After initial review of the records it is unclear that they all originated with the GNWT and it has been determined that a more comprehensive investigation will be required to determine their origin. This investigation will look back at what parties had responsibility for the delivery of programming related to mental health and addictions during the period the records were created. The NTHSSA will continue to cooperate with the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories throughout this process.

While this investigation continues the NTHSSA is best positioned to provide notification for those whose information may be impacted in this breach. All impacted individuals will receive initial notification by letter, including how further information will be provided and where they may access supports. An initial review of the records indicates that there are 134 individuals who will be contacted.

Individuals who require additional support are asked to contact their health centre or, if appropriate, the NWT Help Line at 1-800-661-0844.

### **Quote**

“In any privacy breach patient notification is the first priority. At this point NTHSSA staff will be undertaking notification and working to provide support where required, a further investigation on the origin of these files will continue alongside the notification process.”

-Sue Cullen, *CEO of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA)*

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