

Message from PA to RWC Chairs

To RWC Chairs:

I am happy to share with you some updates to how work is progressing both in my work plan and operationally across the NTHSSA.

Throughout 2025, regular engagement sessions and outreach initiatives were conducted across the Northwest Territories, which resulted in stronger, trust-based partnerships. These efforts have facilitated better identification of local challenges and the development of more effective, community-driven solutions. These conversations have also helped determine where energy will be best spent in 2026.

Work has continued to progress the Dehcho Demonstration project. As of December 31, 2025, the project has demonstrated early successes in enhancing community engagement and responsiveness, including the implementation of culturally relevant wellness programs and the use of telehealth platforms tailored to local needs. Communication efforts have also been made to highlight some of the work in this area including spotlighting staff in the regions who are at the center of this work and the face of efforts in the regions. We know the MLA of the Nahendeh region will also be issuing a statement during this sitting of the Legislative Assembly about this good work. This is an important project, and we want to ensure people are aware of the good work taking place.

Other operational improvements also continue across the NTHSSA. In the past month there has been more work to expanding telehealth services to remote communities, an AI Scribe tool has been implemented in primary care locations across the territory, and we've seen some progress in efforts to continue to expand laboratory and diagnostic imaging services.

In December, a proposed governance structure was also complete and has been shared with the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS). NTHSSA and DHSS will continue to work together to review areas of overlap and suggest areas for efficiencies once approved.

Direction was also given to teams to accelerate the efforts to modernize medical travel between January and March 31st. This work will continue and I hope to have a more detailed update for this group in the coming weeks.

And finally, planning work has begun to commence an in-depth review of access to primary care in Yellowknife starting in April. This is going to take time and will be a lot of work that will see small incremental improvements as it progresses. I look forward to sharing updates on that in the future.

These regularly monthly updates will continue with each of you, but as a reminder, if you have questions throughout the month, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or reach out to Allen who can redirect your request.

Thank you all for your continued efforts in your roles as community members and RWC Chairs. I look forward to our upcoming meeting.

Thank you,

Dan