

February RWC Update

RWC Chairs:

As promised, I am reaching out to provide you with a monthly update on the progress of my work plan and operational priorities across the NTHSSA. My goal is to share these updates at the beginning of each month.

When a new process like this begins, it can take some time to determine the most effective approach. I appreciate your patience with the irregular timing of these first few updates as I establish a consistent rhythm. Moving forward, updates will be shared at the start of each month, with the March monthly summary to be provided in early April. I hope these monthly check-ins will help keep you informed between our quarterly meetings.

We connected in February at our quarterly meeting, where you were given presentations on some of the ongoing work. This included work on system improvements and primary health care reform, including the draft Primary and Community Health Care Framework and information on the rapid-improvement project for medical travel. While there are no major updates to report on these items at this time, I wanted to flag them as areas receiving significant investment from a people perspective. For example, the Medical Travel rapid improvement team is conducting data gathering to understand the current baseline state by doing randomized medical travel reviews from Fort Smith and Sahtu, in addition to mapping out the current process to find pain points and bottlenecks.

From an operational perspective, as many of you are aware, the NTHSSA will be undergoing a change in leadership in the Dehcho following the retirement of Wilson Dimsdale. Recruitment for a new COO is underway, and I look forward to welcoming a new COO soon. The Dehcho Demonstration Project remains a significant area of work for the NTHSSA, supported by the Department of Health and Social Services, so getting someone in the COO role to lead that work will be important. In the meantime, Mirielle Hamlyn, who is the COO of the Sahtu, has stepped in as Interim COO, and I am confident she will support this work with care, as recruitment is underway.

Some things upcoming: a presentation to standing committee will take place in April or early May on the updated work plan that was shared with you at our February meeting. Additionally, a reminder that the proposed date for the next Governance Forum is June 15th and 16th, in-person in Yellowknife. Among other items of discussion, RWC Chairs can expect to review Governance recommendations at that time.

Next month, I look forward to providing a more in-depth update on some of the exciting work currently underway. By then, we also expect to have additional information on the budget, which should support several initiatives within the work plan.

And finally, as you all know, it is my plan to travel to all regions again in 2026 and I look forward to working with each of you to determine a time that works best. If you have a proposed timeline in mind, please reach out to me or as always, do not hesitate to connect with me any time with concerns or comments on any topic.

Thank you,

Dan