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Asked by: John Main, MLA (Arviat North-Whale Cove)

Asked of: Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Premier

Number: 38-5(2)

Date: June 6, 2019

Subject: *Inuusivut Anninaqtuq Suicide Prevention Strategy*

Question:

1. With respect to Outcome 5-3 of the *Inuusivut Anninaqtut Action Plan 2017-2022*, how many annual progress reports on the implementation of the action plan have been produced to date?

Response:

The Government of Nunavut (GN)'s Quality of Life (QoL) Secretariat has been requesting reports from individual stakeholders with regard to their progress on the *Inuusivut Anninaqtut Action Plan* (Action Plan) since early 2018. A status update document is attached.

Question:

2. Broken down by outcome, what specific progress has been achieved on Outcomes 1-1 through to 8-4?

Response:

As of May 31, 2019, 14 or 10 per cent of 145 actions have been completed.

Strengthening mental health services was a priority this year. Fostering *Piliriqatigiinniq*, QoL expanded the Interagency Information Sharing Protocol (IISP), and delivered training sessions on the IISP in five communities – Igloodik, Hall Beach, Baker Lake, Rankin Inlet and Taloyoak.

QoL proudly practiced *Qanuqtuurniq* in its work to enhance and increase addictions treatment in the territory. Using funding from the First Nations and

Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB), QoL partnered with NTI and completed a feasibility study for Addictions and Trauma Treatment in Nunavut. Observing *Aajiqatigiinniq* and *Piliriqatigiinniq*, and in fulfillment of Article 32 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, Health and NTI mobilized a group to share their perspective and knowledge as it relates to addictions and trauma, build relationships and develop a shared vision. Many Inuit were and are involved in the stakeholder group that features representatives from four Nunavut wellness organizations (Department of Healthy Living in Cambridge Bay, Pulaarvik Kablu Friendship Centre in Rankin Inlet, the Ilisaqsivik Society in Clyde River, and the Tukisigiarvik Society in Iqaluit) and the GN's Departments of Justice (Corrections and Community Justice), Culture and Heritage, Finance and Family Services.

In November 2018, an Executive Director for Territorial Addictions and Trauma Treatment (TATT) was hired. Health is currently working towards Phase 1 of the TATT - on-the-land (OTL) addictions treatment and healing camps in each of the three Nunavut regions. In the case of Cambridge Bay, the municipality's Department of Healthy Living will also be able to provide an outpatient/day treatment program. This work includes support for ongoing development of an Inuit workforce that can provide staff to both community-based services and OTL healing camps.

Health worked closely with the Ilisaqsivik Society, Pulaarvik Kablu Friendship Centre, Department of Healthy Living and Health Canada to deliver mobile trauma-response services during times of crisis. The crisis response and trauma team was deployed 46 times to 20 communities, to provide counseling services to family and community members affected by traumatic events.

QoL collaborated with other Health staff, RCMP and ELC to work on territory-wide means restriction efforts, with the aim of reducing access to common means of suicide. This includes the lock-boxes project, distribution of trigger locks, installation of anti-ligature devices in housing, collection of unused and/or outdated medications, and funding the Canadian Firearms Safety Course. Further, QoL provides dedicated funding to the Nunavut Kamatsiaqtut Helpline. QoL developed an information sheet for Nunavummiut entitled, "There is Hope", to inform the public of local, territorial, and national mental health supports such as the Kamatsiaqtut Helpline, the Inuit and First Nations Hope for Wellness Helpline, and Indian Residential Schools Counselling. This is shared widely.

Health, via QoL, with NTI and Indigenous Services Canada also provide funding to the Umingmak Child Advocacy Centre, which provides dedicated child-friendly space for collaborative support of children who have experienced trauma, as well as support for their caregivers, with a particular focus on children who are sexually abused.

In February, Embrace Life Council, Department of Health, and Voicefound launched, "Our Children Our Responsibility!" a child sexual abuse prevention workshop for adults. They also facilitated Trauma Informed Practice Training to over 200 Nunavut professionals and paraprofessionals.

Please see the attached status update document for more details.

Question:

3. Broken down by actions, as listed under Outcomes 1-1 through to 8-4, what work remains to be completed?

Response:

As of May 31, 2019, 103 or 71 per cent of 145 actions are in progress. There are issues with 23 actions or 16 per cent, while four actions or 3 per cent are at risk. Please see the attached status update document and the response #2 for more details.

Question:

4. Broken down by action for which the Government of Nunavut is the lead agency, what barriers and challenges, if any, have been identified with regard to fulfilling the Government of Nunavut's responsibilities?

Response:

Barriers and challenges have been summarized below:

- Due to staffing turnover and capacity constraints with stakeholder agencies, including the GN, some action items are delayed. Additionally, there have been challenges with action items requiring cross-departmental collaboration as a result of staff turnover and vacancies.
- QoL began engagement with the new Department of Human Resources (HR) to assist with position development and reassignment where applicable in commitments.
- The current reporting format is not user friendly. QoL is working on the adoption of a new reporting format for stakeholders, in order to improve their ability to report on the progress of their commitments. It is anticipated that by January 2020, this new reporting format will be in place.

Question:

5. Are existing human and financial resources sufficient to ensure that the Government of Nunavut will be able to fulfill its responsibilities for those actions for which the Government of Nunavut is the lead agency?

Response:

Due to the GN's capacity constraints and staffing turnover, some action items have been delayed.

There is hope that collaboration with the newly developed Department of HR will reduce existing constraints on human and financial resources and lead to greater efficiencies and capacity.