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Nunavut Maligaliurvia
Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Assemblée législative du Nunavut

Return to Written Question

Asked by: Calvin Pederson, MLA (Kugluktuk)

Asked of: Hon. George Hickes, Minister of Health

Number: 78-5(2)

Date: November 5, 2020

Subject: Long Term Care Facilities

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- 1. With Respect to the Kitikmeot Long-Term Care Facility that is referred to in the Government of Nunavut's Request for Proposals 2019-27: Owners Technical Team for Seniors Long-Term Care Project:**

Question a): What is the current status of planning for the facility?

Response:

The planning for the Kitikmeot long-term care facility is nearing completion with a final draft review of the Technical Team's iterative design and room data sheets scheduled for completion in early 2021. Additionally, the Technical Team is completing a review of the design outcomes of the existing Kivalliq Long-term Care project to ensure lessons learned and/or design improvements are properly reflected within the proposed Kitikmeot Long-term Care planning document. It is anticipated the planning phase will be completed and a final Business Case prepared in advance of the 2022/23 Capital Estimates.

For further information, this question can be directed to the Minister of Community and Government Services (CGS) as the planning phase for the facility is undertaken by CGS.

Question b): What Methodology did the Government of Nunavut use to determine the location of the facility?

Response:

The three territorial long-term care (LTC) facilities will be located in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay as they are well suited to provide the level of care necessary for Seniors with complex health issues. The decision to locate the LTC facilities in regional centres was made by Cabinet.

Locating the LTC facilities in regional centres allows for economies of scale and greater access to appropriate physician and specialist services. Nunavummiut requiring level 4 or 5 care generally have multiple chronic health issues requiring ongoing medical support and monitoring from physicians and specialists. Qikiqtani General Hospital, and the Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet Regional Health Centres have physicians on staff 365 days per year and can appropriately support the territorial LTC facilities.

To further support residents at the LTC facilities, the regional centres offer access to the regional airports. Nunavut Arctic College campuses are also located in the regional centres, which will offer Nunavummiut interested in pursuing a career in LTC with access to hands on placement experience.

Question c): What Methodology did the Government of Nunavut use to determine the number of beds to be provided to the proposed new residents?

Response:

Demand for residential LTC, driven by an aging population, increasing life expectancy and a projected increase in the number of Nunavummiut living with dementia necessitate adding beds to the system.

To meet the demands for residential LTC services, each facility will be a minimum 24-bed facility, divided into two households of 12-beds. The GN is basing all regional LTC builds on this model as it presents a more efficient and cost-effective way to operate and maintain the facility, while ensuring residents receive access to services. Predicting future demand is based on historical utilization and this is referenced in the report *Continuing Care in Nunavut, 2015 to 2035*

Question d): What Methodology did the Government of Nunavut use to determines the level of care to be provided to residents of the proposed new facility?

Response:

Demand for residential LTC, driven by an aging population, increasing life expectancy and a projected increase in the number of Nunavummiut living with dementia necessitate adding capacity to the system to ensure Nunavummiut can age with supports in the territory rather than being placed in facilities out-of-territory.

The GN is committed to ensuring safe, quality, and culturally appropriate care for Nunavummiut living with dementia as close to home as possible, and to provide support to their families. Until in-territory care is established, placement of Nunavummiut living with dementia in specialized care facilities out-of-territory is essential to ensure the provision of safe and appropriate health care services. The regional LTC facilities will be equipped to offer level 4 and 5 care to individuals living with dementia and other complex health issues.

Question e): What methodology did the Government of Nunavut use to determine the number of staff to be employed at the proposed new facility?

Response:

The staffing complement is based on ensuring residents receive an adequate number of hours of care per day, based on their assessed needs.

Question f): What methodology did the Government of Nunavut use to determine the estimate annual operating cost of the proposed new facility?

Response:

The cost of residential LTC in all provinces and territories can be separated into two main components; a medical care portion for nursing and physician care, personal care, medical supplies, and other similar costs; as well as the room and board portion for accommodations, meals, and leisure activity programs. Considerations for the above listed areas have been incorporated in the estimated operating costs for the new facility.

LTC is not an insured service under the *Canada Health Act*. Provincial or territorial governments typically only pay for the medical portion of LTC through a co-pay system. The GN does not currently charge for accommodation costs in the LTC facilities.

Question g): What proposals has the Government of Nunavut received to date from the Municipality of Kugluktuk or other entities concerning the establishments and operation of long-term care facility in the community of Kugluktuk?

Response:

The GN received one formal unsolicited proposal from the Hamlet of Kugluktuk. The proposal was explored; however, it was determined that regional hubs would better provide the care requirements that are required by clients in long-term care facilities.

Question h): What had been the Government of Nunavut's response to proposals received to date concerning the establishment and operation of a long-term care facility in the community of Kugluktuk?

Response:

The GN LTC Steering Committee comprised of the Departments of Community and Government Services (CGS), Health, Finance, Justice, and Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIA) examined and discussed the proposal from Kugluktuk, along with the implications of risk, and sustaining the level of care and quality of the services required. It was determined that the proposal was not a viable alternative to LTC facilities in regional centres.