



November 23, 2023

Honourable Tracy-Anne McPhee  
Minister, Health and Social Services  
Yukon Legislative Assembly  
Box 2703  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
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Honourable McPhee,

Thank you for last week's invite to attend the Yukon Legislative Assembly for a tribute in honour of World Diabetes Day. The Yukon T1D Support Network (the "Network") appreciates the recognition you made not only our efforts, but for all persons living with Type 1 diabetes in the Yukon.

We write to you today to help bring clarity to the status of the Yukon Type 1 Diabetes Strategy (the "Strategy") development. In your November 15, 2023, question period response to MLA Yvonne Clarke's query as to the Strategy, you stated that *"the type 1 diabetes strategy is currently being drafted. Interviews and focus groups were completed by the T1D Support Network in the late fall of 2022. Unfortunately, that work took longer, but we must do the work well, and that is supported by the work that we are doing together. At that point, that work sort of forms the basis of the needs assessment for the strategy."* At no time has the Network been a cause of delay in the Strategy's development, including the seven-week period it took for the Network to undertake a Needs Assessment. The Network has diligently been responsible for keeping the conversations on the strategy moving forward.

However, efforts the Network have taken are largely rooted in the continued plea to Yukon Government to maintain progress on this important file. It has been very challenging to continually advocate by means of retelling the same facts and the same stories to newly assigned individuals who are unfamiliar with Type 1 diabetes within Yukon's health landscape. A recent example of this is found in the Network's position that the National Framework for Diabetes is wholly unsatisfactory in contextualizing the approaches needed to support persons living with Type 1 diabetes, yet an early draft of Yukon Government's proposed strategy tethered itself to the framework. In attaching to a national model that has been rejected by Canadians living with Type 1 diabetes, the early draft transparently highlighted that, contrary to the Network's repeated verbal and written opposition to the framework, Yukon Government had, at that time, opted to forge ahead with adhering to the framework's position. Though the conversation has since shifted from the framework, it has only done so at the Network's ongoing commitment to ensure that the Strategy is completed with a lens dedicated to the reality of living with Type 1 diabetes in the territory.

There is an understanding that your responses during question period are only as meaningful as the information that you are being provided through your department. We do strongly feel, however, that the lag from date of the Strategy announcement is not due to any loitering on part of the Network. The

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lack of Strategy development is directly reflected in the unhurried (and at times outwardly perceived as leisurely) investment by the Department of Health and Social Service's time into the Strategy formation. The Network also does note that your question period comment about the commitment date to return the Strategy to the Legislative Assembly as an "*arbitrary date*" does not feel arbitrary to those living with Type 1 diabetes. When a Yukoner has been medevaced to Vancouver due to myocardial infarction caused by complications of Type 1 diabetes, that arbitrary date feels more like a date of failure.

Lastly, the Network is cognizant that the Department of Health and Social Services is a significant portfolio to manage and that this is but one facet within a multitude of interests competing for your time and attention. The Network humbly asks, however, that you prioritize the Strategy development undeterred by the additional demands. It is recognized that this is difficult in these seemingly unprecedented times, yet there is tremendous confidence in your capacity to apply the needed pressure to help the Strategy become a reality within the next several months.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Network for any additional information that may help provide greater context and clarity to the work you have before you. Like yourself, the Network is committed to seeing the Strategy through to completion.

Marney Paradis  
Yukon T1D Support Network

cc: Currie Dixon, Leader of the Official Opposition  
Yvonne Clarke, MLA, Porter Creek Centre  
Kate White, Leader of the Third Party  
Jill Nash, President, Yukon T1D Support Network