

LEGISLATIVE RETURN



SUBMITTED BY: Hon. Ms. McPhee, Minister of Health and Social Services

1. On April 28, 2022, Brad Cathers, Member for Lake Laberge
 - asked the following question during the Oral Question Period at page(s) [page numbers] of *Hansard*
 - submitted the following written question – WQ No. 26
 - gave notice of the following motion for the production of papers – MPP No. #

RE: [subject] *mental health services*

OR

2. This legislative return relates to a matter outstanding from discussion with Kate White, Member for Takhini-Kopper King on March 28, 2022 related to:

Bill No. #

Second Reading Third Reading

Committee of the Whole: [Vote]

Motion No. #

RE: [subject]

at page(s) [page numbers] of *Hansard*.

The response is as follows:
See attached letter dated March 7, 2023.

Nov. 23, 2023

Date

Signature



Minister's Office
PO Box 2703 Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

March 7, 2023

Brad Cathers
MLA, Lake Laberge
Yukon Legislative Assembly
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

Dear MLA Cathers,

Re: Written Question No. 26

Thank you for sharing a written question regarding mental health services available to Yukoners living in communities. I am pleased to respond to your questions on Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services, as well as the historic delivery of services by Many Rivers Counselling and Support Services.

I have been informed that between April and December 2018, Many Rivers reported that staff had provided the following hours of public counselling services by resident counsellors:

- 167.25 hours in Dawson City;
- 188 hours in Haines Junction; and
- 534 hours in Watson Lake.

Many Rivers also reported providing services to the following communities on a day-by-day basis between April and December 2018. These reported hours were calculated using a 7.5 hour work day and were inclusive of both travel time between communities and direct service delivery:

- combined total of 30 days to Beaver Creek, Burwash Landing, and Destruction Bay;
- combined total of 30 days to Mayo and Pelly Crossing;
- 23 days to Carcross;
- 15 days to Carmacks; and
- 19 days to Teslin.

I recognize you have additional questions regarding the number of clients who directly accessed services through Many Rivers and the total number of staff employed by the organization. As you know, Many Rivers Counselling and Support Services closed in 2019, and the Government of Yukon does not have access to data such as the total number of clients served by the organization, as this was not reported by Many Rivers in their quarterly reports.

That said, I am pleased to provide an update on the current delivery of services through the Government of Yukon's Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services branch.

Between April and November 1, 2022, Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services provided the following hours of direct-client contact. These hours do not include travel time and does not include additional client and case management tasks such as group counselling, outreach services, and family support:

- 1,489 hours of direct client service in Dawson City;
- 522 hours in Haines Junction;
- 251 hours in Carmacks; and
- 1,118 hours in Watson Lake.

Our government opened four Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services Hubs in Watson Lake, Haines Junction, Carmacks, and Dawson City. As of January 17, 2023, there are 956 active clients accessing services through these Hubs.

The Carmacks Hub is supported by 2 Community Counsellors, 1 Mental Health Support Worker, and 1 Mental Health Nurse with recruitment underway to hire an additional Mental Health Support worker. Resident Counsellors through the Carmacks Hub provide biweekly services to residents of Faro and Ross River, as well as weekly services in Pelly Crossing.

The Dawson City Hub is supported by 4 Community Counsellors, 1 Child, Youth and Family Clinical Counsellor, 2 Mental Health Support Workers, and 1 Mental Health Nurse. There is also 1 additional Clinical Counsellor living in Mayo, and a Child, Youth and Family Counsellor visits Mayo monthly. Child and youth clients in Mayo are also supported by a full-time school counsellor, and a local Clinical Counsellor. Additionally, a Mental Health Support Worker and a Clinical Counsellors travels to Old Crow on a monthly basis with residents also able to access virtual supports and services, as well as in-person support in Whitehorse between visits to the community.

The Haines Junction Hub is supported by 1 Community Counsellor, 1 Clinical Counsellor, 1 Mental Health Support Worker, and 1 Child, Youth and Family Counsellor. The Community Counsellor and Child, Youth and Family Counsellor visit Burwash Landing weekly. In Beaver Creek the Community Counsellor visits biweekly and the Child, Youth and Family Counsellor visits monthly. In Carcross, the Clinical Counsellor visits Carcross biweekly. In Carcross, there is also 1 Community Counsellor, 1 Child, Youth and Family Counsellor, and 2 Support Workers.

The Watson Lake Hub is supported by 2 Community Counsellors, 1 Child, Youth and Family Counsellor, and 2 Mental Health Support Workers. Additionally, 1 Mental Health Nurse based out of Whitehorse provides regular support in Watson Lake and Teslin with support also available in Whitehorse to members of the community. There is also 1 Community Counsellor based in Teslin, and the community is supported by a Child and Youth Clinical Counsellor on a weekly basis.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write about these important questions regarding mental health services in Yukon communities.

Yours truly,



Tracy-Anne McPhee
Minister of Health and Social Services