

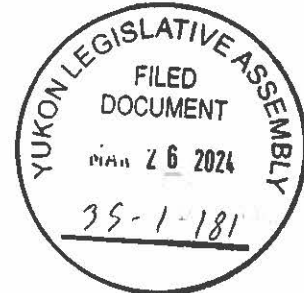


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March 22, 2024

VIA EMAIL: Tracy.McPhee@yukon.ca

Honourable Tracy-Anne McPhee
Minister of Health & Social Services
Minister of Justice
Yukon Legislative Assembly
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6



Re: ***Shāw Kwä'q / Health and Wellness Yukon / Santé et mieux-être Yukon***

Dear Honourable Minister McPhee,

The Yukon Medical Association (YMA) recognizes that Yukon's health care system is fragmented and difficult for both Yukoners and their health care providers to navigate. This fragmentation can negatively impact the care that Yukoners receive and contributes to the unnecessary administrative burden that can cause health care provider burnout. The YMA welcomes all initiatives that empowers doctors, nurses, and other health care providers to put their patients first and supports them in providing the best health care possible.

One of the YMA's mandates is to *promote accessible quality health care for Yukoners*. Building on this short statement, the YMA's recently released strategic plan speaks to its acknowledgement of the living history of systemic racism in the health care system. The health and wellness of Yukon First Nations people is foundational to the health of our territory, and we are committed to moving forward on a journey of truth and healing. Having both physicians and the system provide culturally humble, aware, and trauma-informed care is a key part of the YMA's path forward.

The YMA understands that both the Yukon and Nunavut are the only remaining Canadian jurisdictions that do not currently have a health authority model. We recognize that a health authority creates opportunities for greater integration of a fragmented system so that Yukoners and their health care providers can become reconnected in a way that reduces barriers to access and improves health outcomes. We currently understand that the proposed *Health Authority Act* is enabling in nature and does not prescribe or specify the operational aspects of health care delivery by *Shāw Kwä'q / Health and Wellness Yukon / Santé et mieux-être Yukon*.

Doctors are leaders within their medical teams, and the YMA looks forward to the comprehensive and ongoing conversations needed to inform the operational realities of health care delivery by a future health authority. With this in mind, we highlight Recommendation 1.3 from *Putting People First* which calls to:

“Work with the Yukon Medical Association through the next contract negotiation cycle to develop alternative payment models to transition away from primarily fee-for-service payment for medical services.”

Fundamentally, collaborative work on this recommendation will only be enabled through the YMA having representational rights with respect to physician negotiations. Whether through legislation or contained in the next master agreement, mirroring what is seen in every province in Canada is how meaningful progress on payment models will be made so that physicians are empowered to work in teams to put their patients first. Moreover, Yukon doctors have been asking for the YMA to undertake this role as evidenced through several motions passed in recent years during subsequent Annual General Meetings.

The YMA is keenly devoted to the work needed to implement a better system. Our values of engagement, collaboration, and impact drive us to ensure that we focus on healthy partnerships that meaningfully improve the health and wellness of Yukoners. We understand that health system transformation is a process that will unfold over many years, and we are committed to bringing our best to that shared work ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Kmet', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Alex Kmet
President, Yukon Medical Association

CC: Katrina Fillmore, YMA CEO
Tiffany Boyd, Deputy Minister, Department of Health and Social Services