



CHAMPAGNE AND AISHIHIK FIRST NATIONS

March 20, 2024

Honourable Tracy McPhee
Minister of Health and Social Services
Government of Yukon

Tracy.McPhee@yukon.ca



Dear Minister McPhee:

Re: Support for the establishment of Shāw Kwä'ą / Health and Wellness Yukon / via the proposed Health Authority Act

Dear Minister McPhee:

The Champagne and Aishihik First Nations is very pleased with you tabling the *Health Authority Act* that establishes Shāw Kwä'ą / Health and Wellness Yukon on March 11, 2024. We support this legislation and the collaborative way that it was drafted with Yukon First Nations throughout the development process.

Yukon First Nations have never had a seat at the table when past health legislation was established, and we have long suffered from the systemic racism and poor health outcomes from the resulting systems. This legislation is a necessary first and foundational step to address the fragmented nature of the Yukon's health and social services system.

The current system is difficult for Yukoners, health and social service providers, and non-government organizations to navigate. Ensuring people, whether living in rural or urban settings, get the very best in care when transferred between hospitals, community health centres and other providers is of critical importance, and this new law will enable this to become a reality. The Yukon, except Nunavut, is the last Canadian jurisdiction to move towards a health authority model.

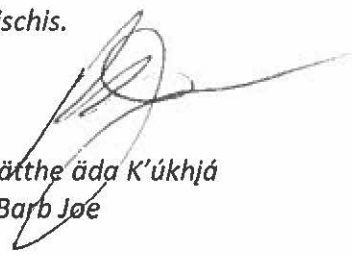
The proposed *Health Authority Act* outlines important concepts for health system transformation as goals for the health system: enhancing patient and staff experience, improving population health and value for money all while advancing health equity. The proposed integrated Yukon First Nation governance structure of the health authority which includes clear roles for Yukon First Nations, and the new requirements for broad health system planning through the Yukon Health and Wellness plan, community health and wellness plans,

and a cultural safety framework are crucial to increase community-level involvement in the health system.

It is also crucial to maintain the Yukon as an attractive place for healthcare professionals to practice, and it is our belief that establishing a modern and culturally responsive health authority will support this.

We encourage the Government to pass this legislation as soon as possible. We know the legislation is foundational and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations supports the establishment and implementation of Shāw Kwä'q. We are committed to continue to partner on this important work as the implementation and development of *Shāw Kwä'q / Health and Wellness Yukon* continues, and excited to work with all partners in the health care system to innovatively transform our system for both those who are clients of the system and those that work in the system.

Kwänischis.



Dän nātthe äda K'úkhjá
Chief Barb Joe

Cc: Executive Director Jennifer Lee