

LEGISLATIVE RETURN



SUBMITTED BY: Hon. Tracy-Anne McPhee, Minister of Health and Social Services

1. On November 23, 2023, Annie Blake, Member for Vuntut Gwitchin
 - asked the following question during the Oral Question Period at page(s) [page numbers] of *Hansard*
 - submitted the following written question – WQ No. 43
 - gave notice of the following motion for the production of papers – MPP No. #

RE: Substance Use Health Emergency

OR

2. This legislative return relates to a matter outstanding from discussion with [MLA] on [date] 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:

Question: The Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy was brought forward by the government in August 2023 at the time we were informed that timelines and budgets would be released for the recommendations in order to respond to the current state of emergency:

1. What are the implementation timelines for the Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy recommendations?

Response: After the release of the strategy, 14 recommended actions were prioritized and have received dedicated resources towards implementation. Some actions will require significant collaboration, time and investment from Government of Yukon, partners and stakeholders.

2. What are the timelines for the 14 priority actions identified by the government?

Response: Timelines vary, including up to multi-year projects that are being implemented in phased approaches. Some actions, such as expanding the hours of the supervised consumption site, are already complete, with others to launch this spring, and more to be completed over the next couple of years.

3. What are the budgets for the 14 priority actions items identified by the government?

Response: \$7.86M related to Substance Use Health Emergency Initiatives has been requested as apart of 24-25 main estimates broken down as follows:

- \$569K Icelandic Prevention Model (Planet Youth) implementation in Yukon Communities
- \$766K Supporting Yukon communities in creating and implementing community wellness plans
- \$1.27M Implementation of a managed alcohol program
- \$780K Expansion of the operating hours of Whitehorse's Supervised Consumption Site
- \$9K Expansion of access to opioid treatment services, including safer supply and opioid agonist therapy
- \$4.35M Increasing support for Yukon First Nations to develop and implement land-based mental health and substance use treatment options

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- \$124K overall implementation of Yukon's Substance Use Strategy.

4. What recommendations have been completed?

Response: Of the 14 prioritized actions, all are currently being worked on and are in different phases of implementation.

5. What partners and stakeholders are being engaged in the implementations of this Strategy?

Response: The Department of Health and Social Services, Department of Justice, Council of Yukon First Nations and Blood Ties Four Directions are all currently working on pieces of implementing the prioritized actions.

6. How are people with lived and living experience of substance use being meaningfully involved in this process?

Response: The voices of people with lived and living experience are being used to guide the implementation of the plan and future improvement initiatives related to the strategy.

7. How is the government working to engage people with lived and living experience in rural communities in this process?

Response: Rural voices are being included in the strategy through both existing engagement processes and dedicated efforts of strategy implementation, such as the community wellness plans.

8. Why is this government only focusing on some of the recommendations of their own strategy?

Response: The strategy was written to provide opportunities for collaboration between the Government of Yukon and other service providers, partners and stakeholders. This includes many large-scale projects that will require multi-year investment in both planning and resources which will be added in a phased approach.

9. When will the rest of the recommendations be implemented?

Response: An annual report of the strategy will identify when action items are prioritized and receiving dedicated resources for implementation.

May 2, 2024
Date


Signature