

LEGISLATIVE RETURN

SUBMITTED BY: Minister Frost



1. On October 18, 2018,

Takhini Kopper King MLA Kate White asked the following oral questions at page(s) 3065-66, 3081, 3084, 3086-87 of *Hansard*:

We have been informed that four surgical beds at Whitehorse General Hospital will be closed and that one less nursing staff per shift will be scheduled on the surgical unit in the coming weeks. Can the minister confirm this information?

Will the minister assure Yukoners that the closure of four surgical beds at Whitehorse General Hospital will not lead to more cancelled surgeries?

Instead of closing the four surgical beds at Whitehorse General Hospital, has the minister considered how they can be used in an effort to reduce the wait times for surgeries at Whitehorse General Hospital?

submitted the following written question – WQ No. _____

gave notice of the following motion for the production of papers – MPP No. _____

RE: Bed pressures

OR

2. This legislative return relates to a matter outstanding from discussion related to:

_____ on _____ at page(s) _____ of *Hansard*.

The response is as follows:

- Surgical beds at Whitehorse General Hospital have not been closed.
- A temporary unit was set up as an interim measure to create three holding beds for people waiting to be admitted to hospital. This step was taken when the hospital was facing extreme bed pressure.
- Now that the bed pressure has been reduced somewhat, these transition beds will be converted back to in-patient rooms and are not expected to impact services going forward.
- There is no reduction in surgical nursing staff since these were not surgical beds. The nursing staff were assigned to these beds on a temporary basis. With the beds no longer required, there is no need for the additional staff.
- In 2017-18, YHC deferred 13 surgeries due to overcapacity, which represents less than one percent of planned surgeries.
- In this fiscal year five surgeries have been deferred due to overcapacity, a decrease of over 50% in the number of deferred surgeries compared to last year.
- The hospital has indicated it only cancels surgeries when there is no way to ensure safe post-operative care because of pressures on intensive care, medical and surgical inpatient beds, and there are additional patients waiting in the Emergency Department for admission. These circumstances can change quickly necessitating these decisions.
- The *Yukon Hospital Act* clearly articulates that the Yukon Hospital Corporation is not an institution of government. We have to respect that they made the best decisions regarding patient care, whether it is about surgery cancellations or how best to designate the beds within the facility.

Oct 23, 2018

Date

Signature 