

LEGISLATIVE RETURN

SUBMITTED BY: Pauline Frost, Minister of Health and Social Services



1. On Thursday, November 16, 2017, Patti McLeod for Watson Lake

asked the following question during the Oral Question Period at page(s) 1675, 1676 of *Hansard*

submitted the following written question – WQ No. _____

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

RE: Immunizations for out-of-territory students

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:

The question as it reads in *Hansard* on the above mentioned date on page 1675 and 1676 is as follows:

Question re: Immunizations for out-of-territory students

Ms. McLeod: Preventive measures against the flu are an important part of our health system. To encourage Yukoners to get the flu shot, the government covers the cost. Unfortunately, there's one group of Yukoners that falls through the cracks and they are unable to get their flu shot covered.

I have a constituent whose daughter is attending school in British Columbia. British Columbia will not cover the flu shot for her because they say it's a Yukon responsibility. Yukon told her that she has to fly back home if she wants to get her flu shot covered. The sad thing is that, instead of supporting someone who wants to get the flu shot, it looks like government is just looking for something else to do.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to having flu shots covered for Yukon students attending school outside of the territory?

Hon. Ms. Frost: Clearly, we care about our students.

We care about the health and well-being of our citizens. I have stated before that we will ensure we provide the best services possible in the Yukon. Unfortunately, at this point in time, I can't respond specifically to the question or the request because it's a one-off request.

If the member opposite would provide that in writing, we can certainly respond formally and have the department review and manage that one particular case. That would be really helpful and then we'll have an opportunity — the Leader of the Official Opposition is motioning that perhaps we should get it in writing. We can then manage this case and provide that back in a formal response.

Maybe we can help the student. I hope we can, but there are many students across Canada — not just in British Columbia — so we will look at it.

Ms. McLeod: I wrote to the Minister of Health and Social Services on October 20 raising this issue, and I have yet to receive a reply. I think this is an urgent and important issue. In principle, I believe the system should be encouraging Yukoners to get immunized against the flu. Reducing the incidence of flu in the territory will actually reduce stress and financial pressures on our health system as a whole. Yukoners in the territory have this essential service

covered. Asking students to fly home or wait until they are back for Christmas unfortunately misses the point. Every day into the flu season that you wait until you get your flu shot, the greater chance you have of becoming sick. Maybe the situation affecting my constituent is an isolated incident, but I have not heard back from the minister for over a month on this topic.

Hon. Ms. Frost: I will go back in my files and have the department respond to the October 20 letter. I am not sure that I have seen it. There are many e-mails that come in every day and they are case-managed appropriately and if there is an imminent need and requirement, then the department prioritizes and responds, so I will ensure that a formal response is sent back to the member opposite.

Nov 20, 2017
Date


Signature



Office of the Minister
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

November 20, 2017

Patti McLeod
MLA, Watson Lake
Yukon Legislative Assembly
Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

Dear Ms. McLeod:

Re: Immunization Coverage for Post-Secondary Students Out-of-Territory

Thank you for your inquiry into the coverage of flu immunization for students attending post-secondary education outside of Yukon. Flu immunization and other immunizations received by post-secondary students outside of Yukon are not eligible for reimbursement. In the case of flu immunization, many post-secondary institutions offer this service for free or at a reduced cost of \$10. It is the experience of Department staff that many students take advantage of the free or reduced cost offering or receive the vaccine upon return to Yukon during Christmas break. This has not proven to be cost prohibitive or a barrier to receive flu immunization.

As is the case in previous years, Health and Social Services works to ensure that post-secondary students are supported to receive their flu immunization during Christmas break by way of dedicated and drop-in immunization clinics. Information on the availability of such clinics can be found at <http://www.yukonimmunization.ca/diseases-vaccines/influenza>.

I hope you find the above information of value. Should you or your constituent have further questions on access to or funding for immunizations in Yukon please contact Cathy Stannard, Director of Community Health Programs at (867) 667-8340.

Mahsi,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pauline Frost".

Pauline Frost
Minister of Health and Social Services

