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FOR **MLA GREAT SLAVE**



Thank you to the Canadian Paediatric Society for the opportunity to answer these questions and for all the work you do helping children and youth in our country.

1. Strengthening child and youth mental health and mental health care:

If elected, what will you do to improve access to publicly funded mental health treatment and resources for children and youth?

I would support the creation of a Child and Youth Advocate position. An impartial 3rd party who could help clients and families navigate the system and secure the appropriate resources. I would ask the department of Health and Social Services (HSS) to register all Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs) operating in the NWT. A dialogue must be started with Health Canada, HSS, and front-line mental health workers to foster closer collaboration and tailor programs to meet the specific needs of our communities and the territory. I would work towards the goal of acquiring a Child and Adolescent Psychiatric unit for the NWT. I would advocate for the establishment of Professional Support Staff (PSS) that are school based: Psychologists, M.S.W. Social Workers, Speech Pathologists and Occupational Therapists. I would advocate for the return of the Social Worker Program at Aurora College.

2. Expanding access to paediatric care:

If elected, what will you do to increase access to paediatric-trained developmental support services such as speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and audiologists in rural and remote locations in NWT?

With the logistical challenges presented by our territory and our small population, we do not have the resources to base these professionals in all communities. I believe we need to establish a mobile team as it is the most efficient and practical way to provide service.

3. Creating safe and healthy environments:

If elected, what will you do to ensure safer homes, schools and communities for children and youth, including by reducing rates of childhood poverty and addressing threats associated with addictive substances and firearms?

We need to implement aftercare (post-rehab) and trauma counselling programs in order to deal with the root issues causing addictions so people can remain sober after treatment. We need to create a Family Violence Strategy and Action Plan to address the violence and abuse children and youth are experiencing at home. We also need to increase funding, and reduce barriers, for emergency and transitional housing programs to provide safe spaces in the event of homelife and financial instability. The GNWT should continue to promote healthy lifestyle choices and provide opportunities for community activities that don't involve alcohol or drugs.

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