

Territorial Health Investment Fund Activity Report Medical Travel Annual 2014/15

The federal government is committed to providing all residents of Canada comparable services at comparable levels of taxation. Accordingly, the Nunavut Health Care Plan, outlined in Sections 3(1), (2) and (3) of the Medical Care Act (2007), states that every Nunavut resident is eligible for and entitled to uniform insured health services. The delivery of health care services in Nunavut is based on the primary health care model. Insured hospital services are delivered by 24 health centres throughout the territory and one hospital located in Iqaluit.

The Department of Health (Health) provides benefits for eligible Nunavut residents who must travel to access necessary health services that are not provided by local health centres. Eligible residents must be registered with the Nunavut Health Care Plan and have a valid medical referral from a licensed Nunavut practitioner. Health insures scheduled and medevac airfare only to the nearest approved treatment centre less a co-payment fee of \$125 per one-way trip. Nunavut residents must rely on third party insurance benefits for assistance with accommodation, meal and ground transportation expenses as these are not insured services covered by Health.

The demographics in Nunavut present many challenges in the delivery of health services. According to the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics population estimates for 2014, 49 per cent of residents in Nunavut are below the age of 24. The 2011 Census data reported that the territory also has a birth rate of 2.97 per cent which is 84 per cent higher than the national average of 1.61 per cent. Nunavut's young population and high birthrate attribute to the continued growth of medical travel expenses.

Nunavut's population, vast territory, lack of access by road and rail, limited health infrastructure and lack of access to specialist medical services contribute to the growing need for medical travel benefits. At current service levels, the medical travel costs are expected to continue increasing.

Funding Received

The Government of Nunavut received \$8,200,000 in 2014/15 from the Territorial Health Investment Fund (THIF) for medical travel projects. Health monitors medical travel spending and volumes on a monthly basis but does not have the capability to report on medical travel by program.

Annual Activity and Financial Reporting

SCHEDULED TRAVEL						
	2013/14		2014/15		Variance	
	Volumes	Expenses	Volumes	Expenses	Volumes	Expenses
In Territory	7,416	\$9,110,596	7,458	\$9,703,720	0.57%	6.51%
Out Territory	18,230	\$32,331,742	18,573	\$34,072,758	1.88%	5.38%
Total	25,646	\$41,442,338	26,031	\$43,776,478	1.50%	5.63%

MEDEVAC TRAVEL						
	2013/14		2014/15		Variance	
	Volumes	Expenses	Volumes	Expenses	Volumes	Expenses
In Territory	715	\$5,482,941	703	\$5,353,219	-1.68%	-2.37%
Out Territory	1,259	\$20,759,816	1,271	\$20,870,111	0.95%	0.53%
Additional Expense		\$7,772,050*		\$7,772,050*		
Total	1,974	\$34,014,807	1,974	\$33,995,380	0.00%	-0.06%

**Contract Base Fee – Includes airplane fixed costs as well as medevac personnel cost.*

ALL TRAVEL						
	2013/14		2014/15		Variance	
	Volumes	Expenses	Volumes	Expenses	Volumes	Expenses
Total	27,620	\$75,457,145	28,005	\$77,771,858	1%	3%

OTHER				
	2013/14		2014/15	
	Volumes	Expenses	Volumes	Expenses
Dental	1,483	\$2,005,103	1,563	\$2,283,495
Social Service	1,483	\$2,468,178	1,280	\$2,110,533
Total	2,966	\$4,473,281	2,843	\$4,394,028