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**NURSE MENTORING PROGRAM NEXT PHASE OF HUMAN RESOURCE STRATEGY**

WHITEHORSE – Health and Social Services Minister Brad Cathers today announced the next step in the \$12.7 million Health Human Resource Strategy for the territory. The department has hired Priya Chetty as the nurse mentorship coordinator.

“Mentorships have been recommended by nursing stakeholders as an important element in preparing nurses to enter practice,” Cathers said. “We are fortunate to have Ms. Chetty take on this very important role as we continue to develop this program.”

Chetty will coordinate development and implementation of the Nurse Mentorship Program.

“Mentorship is an area of real interest to me. I believe that if we equip nurses with the necessary skills and resources, we will have a greater chance at retention, as well as recruitment,” Chetty said.

Chetty’s work with Health Canada has supported nurses with orientation, education and mentorship, as well as development of appropriate and meaningful resources and policies to support nurses in the field. A recently completed Masters degree in Health Administration has further honed her leadership, analytical and research skills.

The Nurse Mentorship Program is a component of the \$12.7 million Health Human Resource Strategy that will help attract and keep nurses in Yukon.

“In Yukon, we need to mentor new graduates to enter the workforce and to mentor experienced nurses as they move into new areas of specialized practice. This program will help us build confidence and competence among nurses new to practice in all areas. The Nurse Mentorship Program is particularly important in the face of impending retirements of experienced nurses in the next few years,” Cathers said.

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