

FOR RELEASE #09-079
March 27, 2009

Complement Filled for Yukon's Primary Health Care Nurses

WHITEHORSE – Glenn Hart, Minister of Health and Social Services, announced today that for the first time in at least 10 years Yukon government has filled every permanent primary health care nurse position in the communities.

The last two positions have just been filled in Old Crow. That accomplishment brings the Community Nursing complement to 32 permanent primary health care nurses, including the permanent float positions that were created to provide “home-grown” relief in the communities.

Since 1999, Health and Social Services has averaged 5.5 to 13 vacancies in Community Nursing.

“This has been a great team effort,” Hart said. “From management to human resources to front-line nurses who have been spreading the word about what a great place Yukon is to work—everyone’s hard work has paid off.”

The minister added that the department has been working over the past few years to create programs and tools that help recruit and retain nurses.

These tools include recruitment DVDs and packages that provide detailed information about the different aspects of nursing in Yukon, signing bonuses and continued attendance at job fairs. In addition, the new nurse mentoring program has been successful in the communities. The department also has been able to call on more than 50 relief nurses to provide quality coverage of vacant positions.

“All the hard work over a number of years has come together,” Hart said. “My congratulations to everyone involved in the recruitment effort, either formally or informally. Good job.”

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