



Hay River Health & Social Services Authority | Administration des services de
santé et des services sociaux de Hay River
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Hay River Health and Social Services Authority

March 18, 2022 – the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority (HRHSSA) continues to face a number of staffing shortages within our workforce.

During the period March 19 – 28th, HRHSSA will have one Nurse Practitioner and one Family Physician in the community to support Medical Clinic operations. A qualified emergency room Physician will not be available during this time. All residents who present to the emergency department will be triaged and assessed by our nursing staff, who will consult with a Physician at Stanton Territorial Hospital over the phone.

HRHSSA continues to actively recruit for professionals, including Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Social Workers, Registered Nurses, Family Physicians, and Laboratory Technicians. Staffing shortages are being driven by a combination of difficulties in recruitment, a highly competitive job market for health and social services professionals and vacancies caused by departures or retirements.

HRHSSA is anticipating a number of employee departures within the next six months. The anticipated departures are for a variety of personal reasons such as moving closer to family, retirement and travel nursing opportunities. To assist with future planning and retention efforts, a formal exit interview process is in place for all employees upon departure.

The anticipated departures over the next six months include frontline Registered Nurses. In order to continue safe quality patient care with the required staffing levels and physician support, the Hay River Regional Health Centre will reduce inpatient capacity from 12 beds to six effective April 1, 2022. As a result, more patients may be transferred out of community for care and treatment.

As HRHSSA continues to work on alleviating health and social services staffing shortages, we are committed to open and transparent communications aimed at keeping clients and community stakeholders up to date and informed as the situation evolves.

Thank you.

Erin Griffiths
Chief Executive Officer