



MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVE

Serving Traditional Foods in NWT Health and Social Services Facilities MD 2020-07

1. Directive

Health and social services' facilities funded by the Department of Health and Social Services and/ or health and social services authorities, including Tłı̨ch̨ Community Services Agency (TCSA), will provide traditional foods to Indigenous patients, residents and clients within those facilities, as and when traditional food options are accessible.

The *Guidelines for Developing Operational Policies and Procedures for Serving Traditional Foods in NWT Health and Social Services' Facilities* were developed to ensure practices for accepting, preparing and serving traditional foods meet applicable legislation and regulations.

2. Purpose

The Minister of Health and Social Services has approved the *Guidelines for Developing Operational Policies and Procedures for Serving Traditional Foods in NWT Health and Social Services' Facilities* to assist health and social services authorities and agencies to develop operational policies and procedures for the safe service of traditional foods to Indigenous patients.

The Department of Health and Social Services recognizes the importance of providing traditional foods to Indigenous patients, residents and clients of NWT health and social services' facilities. A large body of research supports the benefits of traditional foods for Indigenous patients recovering from illness. Traditional foods provides a sense of comfort and well-being that, in turn, supports healing, improves health outcomes, and reduces the length of hospital stay and rates of readmission within 30 days.

3. Purpose

The Guideline document is to assist the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA), Hay River Health and Social Services Authority (HRHSSA) and the Tłıchǫ Community Services Agency (TCSA) to develop and implement operational policies and procedures for serving traditional foods within health and social services facilities for which they are responsible.

4. Exceptions

None.

5. Amendment

The Minister may amend this Directive from time to time.

6. Effective Date

This Directive comes into effect on July 1, 2020.

<original signed by>

Diane Thom
Minister of Health and Social Services

June 9, 2020

Date