

LEGISLATIVE RETURN

SUBMITTED BY: Hon. John Streicker Minister of Community Services

On April 19, 2018, Brad Cathers, Member for Lake Laberge

- asked the following question during the Oral Question Period at page(s) _____ of *Hansard*
- submitted the following written question – WQ No. _____
- gave notice of the following motion for the production of papers – MPP No. _____



RE: _____

OR

This legislative return relates to a matter outstanding from discussion related to: Budget debate on vote 51, department of Community Services.

“...what government is doing as far as the issue of deploying EMS personnel and EMS volunteers by helicopter...
... The second part of the question relates to what the policy is in other rural areas...
... whether EMS volunteers in Dawson could go to West Dawson via helicopter when the ice bridge was not in and neither was the ferry. I would appreciate it if the minister could confirm that they are indeed still able to do so.”

On April 19, 2018, at page 2675 of *Hansard*

The response is as follows:

There are no emergency situations where the use of a helicopter in response to an EMS can be considered ‘low risk’. There are numerous risks related to wilderness operations and patient treatment in the flight environment that must be addressed. These considerations require significantly higher levels of responder training that can be offered consistently to over 240 EMS responders across the territory. In remote response situations, accurate information about the patient is rarely available at the time the crew gets launched. Yukon EMS deploys specifically trained practitioners to address these requests.

Aeromedical transport, technical extrication and remote response are all examples of specialty operations that are riskier than standard EMS responses. Specialty operations must be conducted by responders who are trained specifically to work in remote environments; overcome difficulties related to technical extrication; and deal effectively with medical dangers unique to the flight environment. Yukon EMS makes sure that aeromedical care, helicopter response and remote response services are delivered by designated responders who train together, specifically to prepare themselves for Medevac Remote Response, deployments with the Special Operations Medical Extrication Team and Dawson Remote Response. Not all EMS responders are trained to participate in remote or flight operations.

EMS volunteers in Dawson can still go to West Dawson via helicopter. The Dawson Remote Response procedure is used to address emergency requests from West Dawson and the immediate area around Dawson City whenever the ferry or ice bridge is not available. This procedure is quite similar to Medevac Remote Response except that a physician must deploy with local responders to deliver medical treatment to the patient. Participating physicians and local responders receive additional helicopter safety training and have access to specialized equipment so they can address these calls safely. Yukon EMS has been working with Dawson’s response personnel, Yukon Hospital Corporation and Insured Health Services since December 2014 to coordinate this safe, inter-agency approach to local remote response requests.

Signature

1-Oct, 2018

Date