**Draft letter to Northwest Terrorities Minister of Health and Social Services Lesa Semmler (she/her) to share with your local elected official**

***Sent via email:*** Lesa\_semmler@ntassembly.ca

Dear Minister Semmler,

I am writing on behalf of a constituent who recently met with me to discuss pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), a rare, progressive, and life-threatening lung disease.

It is estimated that more than 2,000 Canadians have been diagnosed with PAH, but as many as 4,000 may be affected. Without treatment, patients with this condition live only two to three years. While treatment options have improved in recent years, the prognosis remains grim for many, as existing therapies often fail to stop the progression of this disease.

My constituent informed me of a new treatment option – sotatercept (Winrevair™) – which was recently approved by Health Canada and recommended for public funding by Canada’s Drug Agency. Sotatercept is a new class of medication with a novel mechanism that potentially addresses disease progression. In clinical trials, it had significant benefits for people’s functionality and mortality risk.

This therapy offers new hope for PAH patients, but without swift action, many may be unable to access it.

In light of this, I urge you to ensure that the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA), which includes the Northwest Territories, expedites negotiations for sotatercept. Without public funding, PAH clinicians are restricted in their ability to provide the best possible care, leaving many patients without access to what could be a life-saving treatment.

Prompt action is essential to ensure that PAH patients in the Northwest Territories can access the best possible care without unnecessary delays.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your response and to further updates on the progress of these negotiations.

Sincerely,

*[Include the name of your local elected official]*

cc *[Include your name and address]*