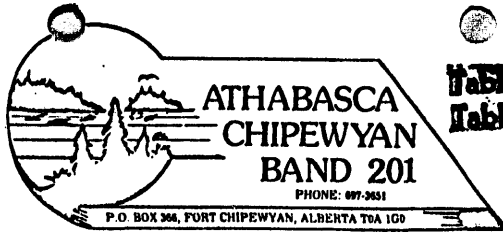


LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
9TH ASSEMBLY, 4TH SESSION

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 19-81 (1)

TABLED ON FEBRUARY 20, 1981



Tabled Document No. 19-8(1)
Tabled 20-2-81

February 02, 1981:

Mr. Leo Saskamoose
Zone Director
Northern Alberta Zone
Medical Services Branch
400, 10240 - 124 Street
EDMONTON, Alberta
T5N 3W6

Re: Dentist and Dental care here

I have been very concerned of the many dental problems the children are encountering in Fort Chipewyan. These problems don't disappear or improve when the visiting dentist comes.

Many children have dental abscess, fillings falling out, and have post teeth extraction infections. This has made me question the procedures of the visiting dentist.

I gather from talking to many parents that alot of the children are afraid to go see the dentist because of his roughness with the children. Also, they say there is no teaching involved at all. So naturally, the children return to the same ways after a dental treatment.


The School of Dental Therapy has offered our community an excellent opportunity to improve the dental care here. They will teach while giving treatments too.

The 18 children that went to Fort Smith for treatment did not mind going. They were not afraid. This says alot - they trust the dental therapist.

So, I strongly support the idea of using the dental school therapists, instead of the visiting dentist.

Please reply immediately. I am interested in what you think of this idea.

Sincerely,


Ernie Voyageur

Band Administrator

c.c. Dr. Lynch


Dear Sir:

The Fort Smith Dental Therapy Committee, is making all attempts to secure enough dental patients to fill the needs of the students who are in training at the dental school here in Fort Smith, the need of more dental patients have been established by the supervisors of Dental Therapy.

The Fort Smith Dental Committee at present is securing funds to carry out the initial supply of dental patients to the school, we need (\$1,000.00) one thousand dollars to pay cost of transportation of rental and lodging and meals.

We await your earliest reply.

Yours truly,


Joseph N. Mercredi
Chairman

RECEIVED
JAN 20 1981
CORPORATION OF THE TOWN
OF FORT SMITH



NORTHLAND SCHOOL DIVISION No. 61

Fort Chipewyan Public School
Box 59,
Fort Chipewyan, Alberta
TOA 1G0

January 19, 1981

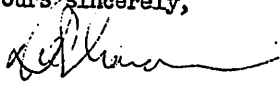
Joe Mercredi, Chairman
Dental Patient Supply Committee
Box 122
FORT SMITH, N. W. T.
XOE OPO

Dear Mr. Mercredi:

It is welcoming to learn that the Fort Smith Dental Therapy School is interested in providing some dental services for the Fort Chipewyan residents which would include free transportation to Fort Smith. This is a step in the right direction since our community is in need of more dental services. Our population warrants it.

At the present we have a few emergency dental cases at the school which need attending to now. We are looking forward to the inception of your program.

Yours sincerely,


D. W. Sharon
Principal

DWS/lc

c.c. Fred Marcel - Chief, Chipewyan Band
Lawrence Courteoreille - Chief, Cree Band
Peter Ladouceur - President, Metis Local
Adele Dyall - Head Nurse
Maureen Clarke - President, Advisory Board

DENTAL THERAPYH COMMITTEE.

JAN 14 1981

COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

CH. J Mercredi

Mr Peterson .
Mr Poitras .
Mrs Gratraix
Mrs Robinson.
Miss Kelly.
Mr Jaque.
Mr Graves.

Chairmen opened the meeting at 2:00PM.

An open table descussion centred arround the method of transportation that will be used , to transport prospective dental patients , from the out linning settlements eg: Fort Chip, Hay River, etc. for the months of Jan- to march 81, perscribed by the dental officers.

Mr Peterson , voiced that fort smith had all types of modes of transportion to bring the dental patients from the settlements, and that they all carry insurance to carry people . Mr Peterson then was designated to look into the transportation area and to bring it up at the next meeting.

Mr Poitras said that he had talked to the people in fort chip and they were quite in favoured or haveing there children children using the dental therapy school in fort smith, he a;lso stated that the chief was going to edmonton to see the dept to help in assiting the band to bring there people here .

The table descussion then monitored arround where can the other prospective patients come from , Miss Kelly then was asked re - the welfare children and inmates at the womens correctional centre she then sated that the uses the school fo dental therapy but had difeculty in getting candidates from the centre due to the long waiting time to get them in to see the therapist. but would look into the matter and bring more information regarding this matter at the next meeting. the question about the other two instituions in the south mackenzie was brought up and letters would be sent to the officials who are inchargé of these

Areas such as Fort Rae Edzo , Providence Fort Simpson And Snow Drift were mentioned , as prospertive areas to look into . the need of a cordinator to reach thease area's was descussed, and at present the chairmen was going to ft chip to arrange the first load of patients for the school

(2)

It was all agreed that the amount prescribed by the dental therapy of 85 patients per day was a little off , and it was agreed that they did not think that the school could handle that many , but that this committee would get as many patients brought into the school using all types of transportation to bring them into the fort smith area.

the subject of hiring a coordinator was brought and the idea of canvassing the town would be a good idea .the subject of matching dental therapy was brought up by Mr Graves . Mrs Robinson was to ask the council for financial assistance in the sum of One thousand Dollars.

Dental Resource person.

It was all agreed that a resource person from dental therapy would be asked to sit on the committee meeting to assist the members when needed .

Note :

I went to see Mr Davies and he agreed to send some one at the next meeting , he could not be there due to other commitments.

the meeting then adjourned till wed at 1:00 Pm at the A.V.T.C. board room.

~~Joe Mercfredi~~
Chairmen

FORT SMITH DENTAL COMMITTEE

MEETING NANOOK HALL

JAN 28/81

1:30

CHAIRMAN: J. MERCREDI

Opened meeting. All Committee members were in attendance. Chairman gave a brief description of their trip to Fort Chipewyan. Accompanying the Chairmen to Fort Chipewyan, were Don Jacque, representative of the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce and three members from the school of Dental Therapy at the evening meeting which was held at the public school. The Dental Committee gave a brief proposal regarding the services that Fort Smith had to offer than the school of Dental Therapy, and that a mutual exchange should carry on between the two communities. It was expressed that the present road should be upgraded, and more effort to keep it opened during the winter months.

The floor then was open for discussion, most of the questions related to the services that the school of Dental Therapy had to offer, or their experience from the Government dentist was more removal than filling or trying to save teeth.

Mr. Robson, Ms Connari from the school of Dental Therapy showed a slide presentation outlining the type of work that the school performed. The people who attended the meeting all expressed their opinion requesting that these children receive dental treatment at Fort Smith, and also in their availability of receiving dental treatment on Saturday some of the parents would like to bring their children on the weekend, for dental treatment and shopping.

ALTERNATE

Upon arriving back to Fort Smith, a meeting was held with the Committee members to locate an alternate area where there is a lack of dental treatment - calls were made to Jean D'or, Garden River, Fox Lake, and Fort Vermillion.

All of these areas wanted immediate dental treatment, Fox Lake public health nurse expressed the need for Dental treatment. She stated a letter was on the way in support of this program entering Fox Lake.

COMMITTEE TO TRAVEL

The Dental Committee authorized the Chairman and a representative to travel to these areas to secure prospective dental clients for the school.

At the day set for travel, it was cancelled due to lack of funds.

FULL TIME COORDINATOR

The Dental Committee also agreed that we were doing the dental schools job, and if this was to continue that a full time Co-ordinator was to be found and paid to travel to all the settlements in Northern Alberta and in the N.W.T.

PEOPLE CONTACTED:

- Calls were made to, Leo Sasakamoore, Northern Health,
Fort Chipewyan Region 420-2680
- Ms. E. Vayager, Public Health Nurse
Fort Chipewyan, 695-3650
 - Dr. L. M. Block Assistant Deputy Minister,
Northern Health, (613) 996-2602
 - Dr. Gordon Butter, Northern Health,
Vancouver (175) 544-8566
 - Jean D'or Prairie, Dolly Dall, Public Health
(403) 759-3773

- Fox Lake Colony, Public Health Nurse
(403) 659-3730
- Metis Association of Veta
Mr. Joe Blyan 452-9550
- Mr. Jim bourque, President
Metis Association, N.W.T.
- Mr. Harry Daniels, President
Native Council, Canada
- Mr. Wilfred Dalton, Fort Vermillion
- Barb Mercredi, Fort Vermillion
(403) 927-3391



Health and Welfare
Canada

Santé et Bien-être social
Canada

School of Dental Therapy
Medical Services Branch
Health and Welfare Canada
Box 90
Fort Smith, N.W.T.
XOE OPO
February 2, 1981

To: Chairman of Fort Smith Patient Supply Committee
re: Fort Smith Patient Supply Committee

Your file Votre référence

Dear Sir:

Our file Notre référence

I, and the staff at the National School of Dental Therapy, are pleased to accept your offer to assist this programme by trying to provide us with an adequate supply of suitable patients to be used for teaching purposes in our clinic.

We believe that from our point of view, we have explored all the reasonable avenues to attract patients to the clinic and that through our efforts the vast majority of the local people who wish regular dental care have been reached and have come for treatment. We would be grateful if your committee is able to provide additional patients that we have been unable to reach and appreciate any efforts you could make to this end. It is important that we receive enough patients to continue the clinic operation, and naturally these patients must be suitable for dental therapist training and be prepared to keep scheduled appointments until the treatment is completed. (Further details of our requirements are attached).

We can cooperate and support your committee's efforts in the following way:

1. Reduce the scheduled field clinics planned for outside of Fort Smith to ensure that all of the patients that your committee can forward will be treated at the School. By cancelling field trips, students will be available to treat these patients in Fort Smith. All field schedules have been cancelled until March 6th.
2. Adjust the appointment times in the clinic to fit in with the scheduled arrival of out-of-town patients coming by special car or bus.
3. Rearrange the student appointment routine to incorporate as many procedures and accomplish as much work as possible per appointment during time the out-of-town patients are here. This will be done as long as it does not compromise student standards or procedures.
4. Dental staff will be available, if asked, to provide expertise, or representation on your committee, concerning the organization and operation of this teaching institution. I should make it clear, however, that our input would be confined to the teaching programme and the responsibility of the School to the dental therapy concept. We operate on a contractual arrangement with the Federal Government and are not civil servants; therefore, matters concerning finances, policy, and service must be handled by the Medical Services Branch of Health and Welfare Canada.

Again, thank you for your efforts in promoting patient supply. We look forward to treating the suitable patients that we are able to utilize through your mechanism.

Yours sincerely
Keith W. Carey

Patient Requirements

National School of Dental Therapy, Medical Services Branch

1. **Patient Load.** The following estimates are approximate. They are based on our past experience, and with the projection that students will spend only 4 - 6 weeks on travel status.

600 new patients (450 children, 150 adults) are required beginning March 1981 and spread out over the remaining three months of the teaching year.

- Explanation: The average student completes about 80 patients per year in Fort Smith. 30 of these patients can be recall people but 50 new patients are required. As of January 1st, students have only received, on an average, about 10 new patients and therefore they require 40 more new patients each. At present, 16 students are working (16 x 40) = 640 patients required.

400 new patients (300 children) will be required by mid-September 1981.

- Explanation: We estimate only 10 or 11 students will be treating patients in September (10 x 40) = 400 new patients required.

2. Some patients will be unsuitable teaching cases for dental therapists, particularly if the dental work requires procedures beyond the competence of the dental therapist students, such as,
 - a) complicated cases (difficult surgery, root canal work, etc.)
 - b) dentures, bridges, crowns, etc.
 - c) some preschool age children.
3. Patients must be able to come regularly and see the treatment through to completion so that the dental therapy student can experience the full spectrum of work, and not just emergency treatment.
4. Appointments will be scheduled at times agreeable to the patient. To the best of the patient's ability, the appointments should be kept; otherwise, the student is faced with considerable "down time" and this affects the student completing requirements before graduation.
5. Usually two weeks' notice is required to set up an appointment. Bus schedules must be set up in advance too and arrangements can be made to keep open full or partial days to coincide with the arrival of any special bus schedules that would be arranged between the committee, the School and the community. Also, students have specific assignments and these may have to be changed to fit in with the bus schedules and for this reason too, prior notice is required.
6. Students are available now and have been since the first of January. If the committee finds that they are unable to maintain an adequate supply of patients, we will begin reintroducing the teaching field clinics in the areas where the Federal Government has responsibility for health matters. This will begin March 6, 1981.



HOUSE OF COMMONS

CANADA

DAVE NICKERSON, M.P.
WESTERN ARCTIC

K1A 0A6

OTTAWA (613) 995-9579
YELLOWKNIFE (403) 920-4778

RECEIVED
FEB 3 1981

Room 685,
Confederation Building,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario.

February 3, 1981.

Mayor John Vogt,
Fort Smith, N.W.T.
XOE OPO

Dear Mr. Vogt:

Thank you for your recent correspondence concerning the School of Dental Therapy in Fort Smith. It was a pleasure to attend the meeting on this subject held in the Fort Smith Council Chambers on January 6, 1981.

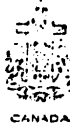
Attached please find a copy of a reply from the Minister of National Health and Welfare dated January 22, 1981 to my letter to her of November 28, 1980.

Yours faithfully,

Dave Nickerson

Dave Nickerson, M.P.
Western Arctic.

Encl.



CANADA

MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINISTRE DE LA
SANTÉ NATIONALE ET DU BIEN-ÊTRE SOCIAL

OTTAWA, K1A 0K9

22 1 1981

Mr. Dave Nickerson, M.P.,
House of Commons,
OTTAWA, Ontario.
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Nickerson:

This letter is further to my Executive Assistant's acknowledgement of your letter of November 28, 1980, concerning the projected move of the School of Dental Therapy from Fort Smith, N.W.T. to a location elsewhere in Canada.

I appreciate your concern and desire to keep the School in its present location, but I regret I am unable to accede to your request to deny categorically that there are plans afoot for its relocation. While a review of alternative locations is underway, I have not yet made any definitive decision on the matter.

The need to consider relocation of the School of Dental Therapy has been discussed with Mr. McCallum, Minister of Health, N.W.T. and the Commissioner, Mr. Parker, and more recently between officials of my Department and the Territorial Health Department. As was explained during these meetings, consideration of a move is necessitated by the lack of dental patients in the Fort Smith area and the disruption to the teaching program occasioned by the need to conduct the students' practical training from temporary facilities in other Northern Communities.

... 2

Mr. Dave Nickerson, M.P.

From the point of view of the economy of Fort Smith, I realize that the loss of the School would, indeed, be unfortunate. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain the interest and morale of the faculty and student body, as well as a teaching capacity, under the present conditions.

Please be assured that I will review this matter in detail and bear in mind your concern before making a decision regarding any relocation of the Dental Therapy School.

Thank you for bringing your concern to my attention.

Yours truly,

Monique Bégin

Monique Bégin

RECEIVED

FEB 13 1981

CELEBRATION OF THE TOWN
OF FORT SMITH



CANADA

MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

MINISTRE DE LA
SANTÉ NATIONALE ET DU BIEN-ÊTRE SOCIAL

OTTAWA, K1A 0K9

9 II 1981

His Worship Mayor S. John Miltenberger,
Town of Fort Smith,
P.O. Box 147,
FORT SMITH, N.W.T.

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Thank you for your letter of December 8, 1980, concerning the National School of Dental Therapy, which my Executive Assistant has brought to my attention.

My officials inform me that Dr. G. Butler and Dr. D. Martin met recently with you and your Council to discuss the Dental Therapy School and the dental needs of your community. I am sure that, as a result of this meeting, you now have a better appreciation of the problem we face in continuing the School in its present location.

In reply to the specific points raised in your letter, there has, as yet, been no firm decision made regarding the relocation of the School. However, if we are to continue to run a viable Dental Therapist Program, consideration of the resiting of the School to a more favourable location becomes imperative.

When the decision was made to proceed with the Dental Therapy Program, the site initially selected for the School was the Coqualeetza Indian Hospital at Sardis, B.C. The decision to change the location to Fort Smith arose from a commitment made by my predecessor, the Honourable John Munro, to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

I agree that the operation of the School from its base in Fort Smith has been highly successful but, as you are aware, the faculty and students are having to spend a great deal of their time operating out of satellite clinics in order to obtain the necessary patient load. This unsatisfactory situation is having an adverse effect on the morale of the teaching staff and the students and the point has now been reached where operations of the School are adversely affected.

.... /2

His Worship Mayor S. John Miltenberger

It is understandable that the School has become an integral part of the social and economic fabric of the community of Fort Smith, and I realize the negative impact that its relocation would entail. On the other hand, should the decision be made to leave the School in your community, it then becomes a question of how long we can continue to run the Program, in view of the inevitability of the consequences arising from such a decision.

In conclusion, please rest assured that I will take the views expressed in your letter into account in coming to a decision on this important matter.

Yours truly,



Monique Bégin

January 12, 1980

Mde. Monique Bégin
Minister of Health & Welfare
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Mde. Bégin:

Re: School of Dental Therapy / Fort Smith, N.W.T.

The Métis Association of the N.W.T. is strongly opposed to the relocation of the School of Dental Therapy from Fort Smith to a larger centre south of 60°.

The School of Dental Therapy which opened in 1972 is the only source of professional dental care for many of the smaller communities in the N.W.T. Officials from the school claim that relocation of the school is necessary since the community no longer offers a sufficient variety of dental cases for its teaching program. There are ongoing adult vocational training programs offered at Fort Smith with a continuing new enrollment of students taking place each semester. This coupled with the proposed increase in credit programs to be offered will be the basis from which Fort Smith will eventually open the first Community College in the north, thus, substantially increasing the clientele required for the Dental Therapy Program. Relocation of any of the present programs from the Fort Smith Vocational Training Centre at this time, will hinder the progress towards the concept of a Territorial Community College being established in that community. Furthermore, the Adult Vocational Training Centre in Fort Smith provides a good percentage of the business to the local economy and the removal of any

Mde. Monique Bégin

- 2 -

January 12, 1981

programs from the Centre will be damaging to the already sagging economy in the Fort Smith area.

An Ad Hoc Committee of concerned citizens in Fort Smith has been formed to review this situation and to develop recommendations to immediately increase the number of patients available for the program. I urge you to consider their recommendations plus the implications that this proposed move will have on the people in the smaller outlying communities who require on-going professional dental care and also the citizens of Fort Smith who have been working for many years towards their community being the educational centre of the north.

These brief comments will further support the already public objections expressed by Territorial Government Officials and concerned citizens in relocating the School of Dental Therapy out of Fort Smith and hopefully the decision to keep the school in Fort Smith will be made by your Department shortly.

Sincerely,

Jim Bourque
President

cc: Minister, DIAND, Ottawa
Dennis Patterson, Minister of Education, N.W.T. Gov't
Rufus Graves, Superintendent, AVTC, Fort Smith
John Vogt, Mayor, Town of Fort Smith

/mt

School of Dental Therapy

Patient Statistics Update - Fort Smith - Dec. 1/80

Comment:

On November 28, 1980, the anticipated point was reached where there were NO patients on our records waiting for treatment.

On December 1, 1980, four students who had been repeating some course work, were considered to be ready to advance from working on mannequins to treating patients. There are no patients for them. Patients will be taken from other senior students to spread the minimal load.

This is an appropriate time to update and analyze data.

Overview:

Patients waiting for treatment on waiting list	0
Total number of participating patients (Dec. 1/80)	1,206
Population Fort Smith	2,347
% of total population participating	50%
(% of school children participating - see below	80%)

Details: (close approximation Dec. 1/80)

Participating school children	a) Elementary 341	
	b) High School <u>204</u>	545
Total school population	c) Elementary 433	
	d) High School <u>248</u>	681
% school children participating	$\frac{545}{681}$	= 80%
% school children inactivated due to 'no show' etc.	$\frac{26}{681}$	= 4%
% school children <u>not</u> participating	$\frac{102}{681}$	= 15% (38% of which are kindergarten and grade 1)
Participating adults (est. 41%)		661

Work Left:

262 children and 264 adults are still having treatment completed by 17 students (13+4) = 30 patients per student.

Students make 5 appointments/day (about 1½ hrs. each); estimate each patient will average 3 appointments more, i.e., $\frac{30 \times 3}{5} = 18$ days.

Each senior student has about 18 days of work left as of Dec. 1/80.

First-year students begin treating patients about April.

Annual Turnover: (major population exchange during summer)

New patients since June 1/80	228
Patients inactivated since Sept. 1/80 (i.e., left town, no shows, no contact, etc.)	220

I would like at this time to express my sincere appreciation to you people who are here this afternoon.

The reason this meeting has been called is to come to a solution over the constant threat that the School of Dental Therapy will be relocated somewhere in the southern provinces.

For several years now there have been meetings held with the Administration of Dental Therapy and concerned members on Council. Each side has presented their views, till now, it becomes repetitious with every meeting being held. We, who reside north of the 60th parallel have set a design to educate our young people in the Northwest Territories so as to meet the demand of industry and the demands of the community. That design was to establish the University of the North or the College of the North, where Fort Smith was to be the centre of further education. Part of this education was the important need of Dental Treatment to the native people of the Northwest Territories.

The School of Dental Therapy's complaints, were that they wished to reduce the scheduled field clinics outside of Fort Smith, and on the other hand they also ~~state~~ there are not enough dental patients in Fort Smith to continue their learning in the field of dental therapy.

The students themselves have indicated that the lack of dental patients in Fort Smith affects their requirements needed in completion of their course. They further say that from their point of view they have explored all reasonable avenues to attract prospective patients to this clinic.

Their concern then became the concern of a committee that was formed approximately 18 days ago. This committee then took upon themselves to supply Dr. Davey and his students dental patients that would definitely meet

their teaching needs. We have systematically scoured all the communities within a 180 mile radius and have located areas that are dental free. When I state dental free I mean that there is no dentist except maybe once a few times a year. And yet this dentist that travels to these remote areas discriminates by a policy that is laid down by the Dept of Health and Welfare, and that is Treaty Indians shall receive free dental care and that the Metis, non status and white population might be seen if they have the 'cash'. The days of the Frontier dentist still thrives in the northern communities. It seems that their only style in treating native people is by extractions, or yank 'em, not fill 'em. None of these communities have ever experienced a dental hygienist coming to the schools and to instruct on how to save teeth. This committee that I sit on has gone to our neighbour to the South - Fort Chipewyan. We were not there more than an hour when the educators gave us 18 names of children suffering acutely from bad teeth. As one teacher exclaimed 'It pains me to see those children in pain'.

Our committee went to the people of Fort Smith to secure donations so that we could bring these children to the clinic to be treated. As of today we have brought in with our own efforts 33 children to show it can easily be done. There are many more from Jean D'or, Garden Creek, Peace Point, Ft Vermillion, Fox Lake, Meander River. They are just our neighbours to the south. The chiefs from Snowdrift, Rae Lakes, Trout Lake, Fort Simpson, Ft Providence and Mayor of Pine Point all have the same concerns as our neighbours to the south. We have through the committee found enough dental patients to supply the clinics dental patients population needs for the next five years.

A.V.T.C. has a large fluctuating population, there is no lack of dental

patients there. It is just the lack of arrangements by the school of Dental Therapy. It is our recommendation that a coordinator be contracted by the Federal Government to recruit prospective clients from all the areas I have mentioned and that monies be designated to transport the prospective clients to the school of Dental Therapy and that areas that are isolated should be provided with field clinics. You cannot discontinue all field trips completely. Also, more northern prospective dental students be found to attend the school of dental therapy so they in turn can serve their communities in the prevention instead of extraction.

In conclusion, we request that immediate intervention in developing a policy of serving instead of a threat of re-location be implemented.

Joe Mercredi
Chairman
Fort Smith
Dental Committee

JM/gid

FORT SMITH DENTAL COMMITTEE

BOX 122

FORT SMITH, N.W.T.

February 10, 1981

Dear Sir:

You may be aware of the controversy that has risen at Fort Smith over the possible relocation of the School of Dental Therapy, outside of the N.W.T.

The reasons that they have expressed:

- a) Lack of dental clients - (school age)
 - b) They have exhausted the clients in the Fort Smith area.
 - c) They want a unlimited amount of clients so as to fill the need of teaching.
- 1) The question we are faced with - "Does the School of Dental Therapy enfringe on the areas covered by the N.W.T. dentists."
 - 2) If the areas of Rae Lakes, Rac/Edzo, Trout Lake, and Detah were visited by the School of Dental Therapy - would there be any objection by the Yellowknife dentists.
 - 3) Do you cover these areas mentioned, and how many times a year.
 - 4) Would you endorse the practice of dental therapy in the Northern Regions.

Please answer as soon as possible..

Yours truly,


Joe Mercredi
Chairman

JM/mt

FORT SMITH DENTAL COMMITTEE

BOX 122

FORT SMITH, N.W.T.

February 10, 1981

Dear Sir:

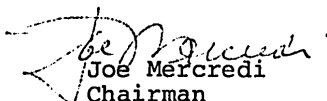
You might be aware, that the School of Dental Therapy is requesting the school be located outside of the N.W.T. Their reason is that there is a lack of dental patients in the Fort Smith area.

The Dental Committee which I chair believes that communities in and around the lake head area, would like to use the services of the dental school.

What the Dental Committee request from you and other chiefs in the South Mackenzie, is would you like to have the School of Dental Therapy visit your area; to clean, extract or fill teeth.

Please advise by mail as soon as possible.

Yours truly,


Joe Mercredi
Chairman

JM/mt



Health and Welfare
Canada

Santé et Bien-être social
Canada

12 February 1981

Mr Joe Mercredi,
Chairman,
Support Committee to
School of Dental Therapy,
Ft Smith,
Northwest Territories.

Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence

120-2-6 (NWT)

Dear Mr Mercredi,

When I met with your committee on Tuesday 3rd February in Ft Smith I promised to give full consideration to your request for some financial support to aid in the proposed bussing of children from Ft Chipewan and Pine Point, and to also bring your request to the notice of my colleagues at Branch Headquarters in Ottawa.

The proposal has been discussed in detail and it has been decided that bussing of children over long distances on winter roads is not an acceptable method of providing an adequate patient load for the School of Dental Therapy.

The reasons for this decision are as follows:

- (a) In order to train dental therapy students in the approved manner a patient normally has to visit the school 6 - 8 times. e.g.
- 1st visit - full detailed examination, x-rays and documentation of condition found. Also treatment of emergency conditions.
 - 2nd visit - Dental Health education and demonstration of brushing, flossing, etc.
 - 3rd - 6th - Restoration work on each of the four quadrants^A visits
 - 7th visit - Followup check, etc.

It would be extremely difficult to arrange regular repeat visits when patients live 150 miles from the Centre.

- (b) It is considered unreasonable to expect children to undertake numerous return journeys of 6-7 hours duration over icy roads so that Dental Therapy students may have an adequate patient load. The risk of accidents on the highway has also to be taken into consideration.
- (c) The Chief of Ft Chipewan is concerned about the proposal to bus children on a regular basis and has expressed this concern to Branch officials.

The lack of adequate dental services in Ft Chipewan and many other isolated areas serve to stress the need for an expansion of the Dental Therapy School so that we may train more native students and serve these communities with trained resident Dental Therapists.

I sincerely regret being unable to support your request for financial support for the bussing of students on a temporary basis from Ft Chipewan and Pine Point.

Yours sincerely,

G. C. Butler

Dr G.C. Butler
Associate Director General (West)

ADULTS & CHILDREN

Total number of adults + children participating 1,171
Total number of restorations remaining 1,281
Total number of dental therapy students as of 18/12/80 14
New therapists beginning treatment 5/1/80 3

Student therapist 1 - 32 patients
" " 2 - 25 patients
" " 3 - 0 patients

Patients on waiting list 1/1/81 - 0

Average number of restorations per therapist $\frac{1281}{14} = 91.5$

1 surface restoration $\frac{571}{14} = 40.7$ restorations or 44.5% of total restorative work to be done

2 surface restorations $\frac{306}{14} = 21.85$ restorations or 23.8% of total restorative work to be done

3 surface restorations $\frac{119}{14} = 8.5$ restorations or 9.2% of total restorative work to be done

4 surface restorations $\frac{43}{14} = 3.7$ restorations or 3.3% of total restorative work to be done

resin restorations $\frac{242}{14} = 17.28$ restorations or 18.8% of total restorative work to be done

R. Spink
December 30/80

C H I L D R E N

(16 years of age & under)

Total number of children (16 & under)	504
Total number of children on recall	309 or 61%
Total number of children active	195 or 39%
Total number of restorations	379
Total number of students	14
Average number of restorations per therapist	27

1 surface restoration $\frac{238}{14} = 17$ restorations or 62.8% of all restorations

2 surface restorations $\frac{89}{14} = 6.3$ restorations or 23.5% of all restorations

3 surface restorations $\frac{19}{14} = 1.3$ restorations or 5% of all restorations

4 surface restorations $\frac{5}{14} = .3$ restorations or 1.3% of all restorations

resin restorations $\frac{28}{14} = 2$ restorations or 7.3% of all restorations

Total number of pulpotomies 8

Average per therapist $\frac{8}{14} = .5$

(11 therapists have none)

Total number of crowns 14

Average per therapist $\frac{14}{14} = 1$

(8 therapists have none)

Total number of extractions 9

Average per therapist $\frac{9}{14} = .6$

(5 therapists have none)

R. Spink

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PLANTS	1 SURFACE	2 SURFACE	3 SURFACE	3+ SURFACE	RESINS	PINS	FULL DOZ.	CROWNS	DEC. EXTR.	PERM. EXTR.	POLISH/PK	COMPLETE
V.	42	22	14	2	27	1	6	0	0	11	31	
M.	50	33	14	9	24	3	0	0	0	1	35	
W.	28	19	9	3	5	5	0	0	1	0	33	
J.	73	31	21	9	49	5	0	1	1	1	23	
R.	43	33	13	6	24	3	4	4	1	6	24	
G.	78	22	2	3	13	2	1	2	0	2	25	
H.	33	25	14	0	13	1	0	0	1	2	29	
C.	49	13	7	1	12	1	3	3	2	3	23	
W.	23	20	2	1	9	1	0	0	0	3	16	
H.	5	5	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	15	
V.	7	3	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	9	
D.	54	21	5	5	10	0	0	3	1	0	10	
M.	54	41	11	3	45	5	0	1	2	4	40	
S.	32	18	4	0	7	0	0	0	1	0	24	
T.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	571	306	119	43	242	27	14	15	10	33	345	
TOTAL												

CHILDREN & ADULTS

Number of kindergarden, elementary children	433
Number of high school children	<u>248</u>
TOTAL	681

Total number of J.B.T. children participating	338 or 78%
Total number of J.B.T. children inactive	9 or 4.3%
Total number of J.B.T. children not participating	<u>76 or 17.5%</u>
TOTAL	433 100.0%

Total number of P.W.K. children participating	204 or 82.2%
Total number of P.W.K. children inactive	12 or 4.8%
Total number of P.W.K. children not participating	<u>32 or 13.0%</u>
TOTAL	248 100.0%

Total number of therapists as of 18/12/80	14
Total number of therapists as of 06/01/81	17
School children not participating (76 + 32)	108
Average new school children per therapist if 100% participation	$108 \div 17 = 6.3$

A D U L T S

Total number of adults participating (17 years and older) 667
Total number of adults on recall 382 or 57%
Total number of adults active 285 or 43%
Total number of restorations 902
Total number of therapists 14
Average number of restorations per therapist 64

1 surface restoration $\frac{333}{14} = 23.7$ restorations or 36.9% of all restorations

2 surface restorations $\frac{217}{14} = 15.5$ restorations or 24% of all restorations

3 surface restorations $\frac{100}{14} = 7.1$ restorations or 11% of all restorations

4 surface restorations $\frac{38}{14} = 2.7$ restorations or 4% of all restorations

resin restorations $\frac{214}{14} = 15.2$ restorations or 23.7% of all restorations

Total number of pins = 24

Average per therapist $\frac{24}{14} = 1.7$

(4 therapists have none)

Total number of extractions = 34

Average per therapist $\frac{34}{14} = 2.4$

(7 therapists have none)

R. Spink
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1 SURFAC	2 SURFAC	3 SURFAC	3+ SURFAC	RESINS	PINS	PULP	CROWNS	DEC. EXT.	TERM. EXT.	POLISH/F	COMPLETE
19	20	13	2	24	1	6	0	0	11	24	
26	23	11	8	16	2	0	0	0	1		
21	14	9	3	5	5	0	0	0	0		
55	23	15	5	48	3	0	0	0	0		
28	18	11	6	24	3	0	0	0	6		
45	13	1	3	8	2	0	0	0	2		
12	22	14	0	13	1	0	0	0	2		
19	3	7	1	10	1	0	0	0	3		
13	17	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	3		
3	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0		
3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0		
28	17	4	5	10	0	0	0	0	0		
44	32	11	3	45	5	0	0	2	4		
17	14	4	0	7	0	0	0	0	0		
333	217	100	38	214	24	6	1	2	32		
A D U L T S											

NEW THERAPIST WORK LOAD

There will be three therapist treating patients, over and above, the main group of 14 therapists, beginning in January, 1981. To date the following patient load for these therapist stands as follows:

	<u>Adults</u>			<u>Children</u>		
	Active	Recall	Total	Active	Recall	Total
Therapist, C.L.	4	0	4	27	1	28
Therapist, M.K.	13	0	13	12	0	12
Therapist, G.T.	0	0	0	0	0	0

Also one graduate therapist is to come back to Fort Smith for retraining in the new year. As of now we have no patients for her. She is a Yukon therapist and requires primarily children for her training of which there are none.

R. Spink
December 30, 1980

PATIENT STATUS + SURFACE EQUIVALENTS

	Adults			Children			Surface Equivalents
	Active	Recall	Total	Active	Recall	Total	
M. Vermillion	28	21	49	9	25	34	238.5
M. Monias	32	34	66	17	27	44	279.5
A. Ward	24	17	41	11	17	28	151.5
H. Janvier	21	18	39	7	18	25	361
A. Robinson	16	20	36	8	15	23	264
S. Gibson	14	36	50	15	29	44	199
K. Harder	16	17	33	15	11	26	133
M. Connors	15	34	49	11	28	39	160
L. Weeks	18	33	51	13	17	30	110
G. Hykawy	18	30	48	3	30	33	38
A. Vanderhorst	9	35	44	4	19	23	37
G. Derksen	18	21	39	17	27	44	176
J. Morin	19	32	51	18	23	41	321
C. Stone	20	34	54	8	22	30	119
C. Lewthewaite	4	0	4	27	1	28	
M. King	13	0	13	12	0	12	
G. Taylor	0	0	0	0	0	0	
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	285	382	667	195	309	504	2,638

ESTIMATE TRAVEL TIME

<u>Students</u>	<u>S.E. Required To Graduate</u>	<u>Completed To Date</u>	<u>S.E. Remaining In SDT</u>	<u>Best Month of Productivity</u>	<u>Time in School to Completed Patients (mth)</u>	<u>Time in Field to Complete Requirements (mth)</u>
M. Vermillion	1,350	757	238	148	1.6	2.4
M. Monias	1,350	794	279	156	1.78	1.77
A. Ward	1,350	510	151	141	1.07	4.88
H. Janvier	1,350	454	361	124	2.9	4.31
A. Robinson	1,350	324	264	114	2.3	6.68
S. Gibson	1,350	392	199	118	1.68	6.43
K. Harder	1,350	69	183	69	2.65	15.9
M. Connors	1,350	609	160	147	1.08	3.95
L. Weeks	1,350	361	110	110	1	7.99
G. Hykawy	1,350	529	38	140	.27	5.59
A. Vanderhorst	1,350	476	37	137	.27	6.13
G. Derksen	1,350	503	176	128	1.37	5.24
J. Morin	1,350	499	321	107	3	4.95
C. Stone	1,350	378	119	138	.86	6.18
Total			<u>2,638</u>	<u>1,777</u>	<u>21.83</u>	<u>82.4</u>
Average			188	126 (131)	1.55 (1.47)	5.88 (5.11)

The above chart indicates that if each student completed all the work remaining in all his patients in Fort Smith he is still short the units of work required to graduate. To complete these work units he will have to spend time travelling in the field.

The average student has 1½ months of work remaining in Fort Smith and 5.88 months of travel in the field.

CANCELLATIONS

The rate of no shows or late cancellations is as follows:

<u>1980</u>	
May - June	18%
September	10.9%
October	13.4%
November	12.6%
December	11%

Beginning in September, 1980 our method of notifying patients of our policy in handling patients who fail to show for appointments was changed. This helped reduce our rate of absenteeism. But, still over 10% of a therapist time is lost because patients fail to show for appointments.

E S T I M A T E S
1981-82 School Year

- 1) The anticipated number of second year students next school year is 12 - 13 students.
- 2) New patients anticipated is 10% less than 1980 440
(due to governmental dental plan for territorial employees,
levels of large transient population)
- 3) Average number of new patients per therapist 440/13 33
- 4) Average number of appointment per patient (@ 1 hr/appointment) 10
- 5) Total number of hours to complete new patients 330 hours
- 6) Time available per week to treat patients 30 hours
- 7) Time required to treat all new patients 11 weeks

Therefore in approximately 2 3/4 months all new patients would be completed.

All work should be completed on existing patients by previous class.

Therefore, it is anticipated that the therapist would have to travel from the end of November till the end of June, or 6 1/2 months, if the school is not relocated.

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PATIENT RECRUITMENT

- 1) All children in JBT and PWK whose names were on the class lists and who were not presently assigned to a therapist had letters sent to them. The first letter was given to each child and the second letter was mailed to the parent via the post office. The response was generally good and resulted in us now treating 78% of JBT and 80% of PWK.

- 2) An advertisement was run in the newspaper which resulted in 22 people phoning in, 12 of them children after 1 month.

WAITING LIST

Patients on waiting list as of December 30, 1980	0
Patients who phoned in 1978 to be placed on waiting list	688
Patients who phoned in 1979 to be placed on waiting list	545 - 20% reduction
Patients who phoned in 1980 to be placed on waiting list	471 - 13% reduction

Therefore since 1978 to 1980 there has been 33% fewer people phoning in asking to be treated.

CHILDREN/ADULT PATIENT LOAD

The main emphasis in a graduate therapist's field program is the treatment of dental disease in children. Approximately 70 - 75% of their time is involved treating school aged children. They are trained to treat adults, but most of the adults are treated after school hours. This normally amounts to approximately 6 hours per week.

The patient load in Fort Smith no longer provides the number of new children to enable the therapist to gain sufficient experience in preparation for graduation. This is because the restorative work to be done is just the reverse of what would be done upon graduation.

RESTORATIONS

Adults	902	or 70%
Children	379	or 30%
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	1,281	