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I'm writing this letter because of what has been brought to my attention that happened in my community which is very disturbing to me. This happened on May 27, 1986, where three young people were involved in auto accidents. One of the three was very badly injured to the extent that the bones of his legs were showing.

This happened at 6:30 PM, Resolute Bay time, just before Nordair jet take-off to Montreal. Obviously, the nurse who was in charge asked Nordair if they could wait for one-half hour while she did first aid preparation for the trip. Nordair refused to wait for the patients the extra half hour because, according to them, they didn't want to be late landing in Montreal Airport, as it closes at 11:00 PM, and they didn't want to pay the fine for landing after hours.

If the patients had gone on Nordair to Montreal, they would have been at the hospital within three hours. As the result, the nurse had to order an air charter from Frobisher Bay, the charter never came until 2:30 AM, the following morning. As a result, they never got to the hospital in Frobisher until 6:00 AM, the following morning. The accident happened at 6:30 PM, on May 27, 1986, and the patients didn't arrive at the hospital until almost 12 hours later.

I'm very concerned with what has happened. To me, this was an emergency case and I'm questioning why Nordair couldn't wait for an extra half hour to take the patients when it was a life-or-death situation. The same situation could happen again, easily, if nothing is done to mitigate the problem.

We, the people of the High Arctic regions, Northern Canada, pay one of the highest airfares which is the only way to get to other places and we seem to be second priority to other parts of Canada. As far as Nordair is concerned, to my understanding, they are very reluctant to help us out.

In our future, I would like to see an improvement where emergencies, such as this, could be accommodated to meet our needs. We should find a way to make regulations that would apply to the airlines where emergency cases are first priority!

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High Arctic

