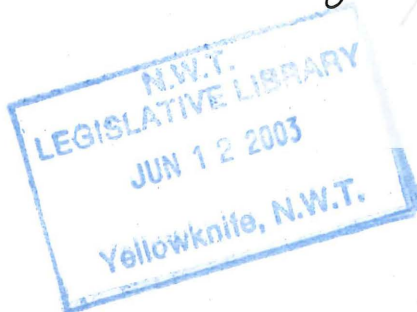


Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Honorable Michael Miltenberger
Minister of Health and Social Services
Government of the Northwest Territories



Dear Mr. Miltenberger,

We the undersigned family physicians working in Yellowknife would like to express our support for the specialists employed by Stanton Territorial Health Authority in their ongoing contract negotiations. We feel that a just and equitable solution to the current contract impasse will best serve the healthcare of the Northwest Territories.

Because of the nature of the medical care provided at Stanton, family physicians and specialist must work cooperatively. A majority of family physicians have chosen to work in Yellowknife because of the unique mix of services provided. Family physicians providing obstetrical care including high-risk obstetrics will not be able to continue to provide this care without specialist obstetrical back up. Similarly those family physicians that provide surgical services cannot continue to do so without specialist surgical or obstetrician back up.

Many emergency physicians chose to work in Yellowknife because of the level of acuity and the specialist backup that allows ongoing treatment locally. Without specialist backup the role of emergency physicians will be altered with more patients needing simply to be transferred south for ongoing care. GP anesthetists chose to practice in Yellowknife because of the ability to work with general surgeons, gynecologists, ENT surgeons, orthopedic surgeons and ophthalmologists.

In the event that these specialties are no longer represented in the community many family physicians will find their scope of practice greatly curtailed. Given this situation, some family physicians may elect to look for work opportunities in other communities where they could utilize their skills to the fullest. ←

We feel that the services provided by the specialists are an integral part of the health care provision in Yellowknife and we fully support them in their efforts to obtain a just contract.

Signed,

Ernie Radwell
Chris Mann
Jeff
Hansen
Joel
Bush
David Koff
Margaret Anne Goodside
Graves
ET-SARIAM
Al Pratt