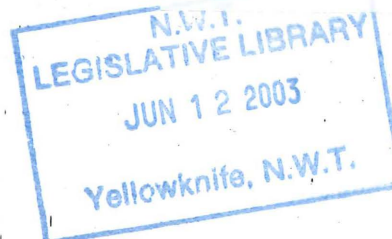




**Sandy Lee /YK /LEG**

**From:** mimel /unix [mimel@nt.sympatico.ca]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 10, 2003 8:13 PM  
**To:** Michael Miltenberger /YK /EXEC  
**Cc:** mimel /unix; Sandy Lee /YK /LEG  
**Subject:** The clock is ticking



Dear Sir....

As you may have heard in the legislature in the past week there are concerns being raised in regards to the resignation of our specialists. My MLA, Sandy Lee has approached you with several concerns that you seem to have been avoiding and stating that she is causing undue concern amongst people.

I am making my plea to you as a real person and not as second-hand or third-hand information, this is the truth from one person to another. It has taken me a lot of courage to go out in the media to state my story and yet you seem to still see it as just that, "a story". I have had to make the choice to come out and voice my concerns as you will not listen to my MLA and seem to ignore any media, i.e.: my family's interview which aired on Northbeat on Thursday, June 5, 2003, my family's interview with the Yellowknifer, which was published on Friday, June 6, 2003, and the continuation of my family's interview with Northbeat which aired on Monday, June 9, 2003. I can provide copies of the interviews and the newspaper article for your convenience if you are interested in hearing the first hand story of how our medical crisis is affecting the public.

Unfortunately, what you may not understand about childbirth is that it can not be "put off" until a convenient time. Babies will be born when they are ready. My due date for the birth of my second child is June 29, 2003. At my last check-up with my doctor, we (my husband and I) were advised that we have two options at this point, to induce labour or be medivaced to Edmonton after July 1st. This causes my family concerns for the following reasons:

1. To induce labour at this point in my pregnancy is an uncalled for medical procedure. I am at this stage 37 weeks pregnant and a normal pregnancy lasts forty weeks. I am healthy and the baby is healthy which means that we are intervening in my pregnancy and could cause complications with my baby if s/he is not ready to be born yet;
2. My doctor would have liked to send me to Edmonton two weeks before my due date, but s/he felt that Health and Social Services would not sign the travel warrant as there are doctor's in place at this time;
3. If I should go into labour and have to be medivaced to Edmonton after the July 1st date, I am faced with the reality that my baby may be born in an airplane, on a tarmac or in an ambulance with complete strangers providing me with the proper medical care;
4. If I am to be sent to Edmonton, my husband will have to take special leave from his job, pay for his ticket at full fare, pay for the full fare ticket of our daughter as well as the accomadations and meals for them;
5. When we get to Edmonton, who is going to take care of my three year old child? We do not know of anyone in Edmonton that we would leave our child with. As well, we will not leave her with our family or support in Yellowknife as this would be too traumatizing for her being away from her mama and daddy for a very long time. She may be only three years old but she

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is very mature for her age and understands alot more than we realize; and

6. If our baby were to be medivaced to Edmonton due to complications here, we would be faced with having to wait for the medivac pediactric team getting organized, flying to Yellowknife, assessing our baby and then medivacing the baby to Edmonton without my husband or myself being allowed to go on the plane as there is not enough room. This process may take up to 7 hours in total. Our baby's life can not wait for while a team is being sent up.

Therefore, we are taking the radical procedure of inducing labour tomorrow, so that we will have adequate medical staff in place for myself as well as our baby. Unfortunately we are not the only couples facing this decision and there will be at least eight other couples attending the hospital to induce labour tomorrow as well.

Please understand that my concerns are real and that you have caused stress and anguish to our family in a time that should have been enjoyed and celebrated. Instead we are faced with coming out to the public with our private story and expressing our discontentment with the decisions that you have made as a Minister of Health and Social Services. I This is not a scare tactic created by Sandy Lee. She is just voicing the concerns of her constituents that voted for her. If you will not listen to Sandy Lee during session, please see the attached picture of my daughter Hayley and I and think of us tomorrow as we undergo our procedure to ensure the safety of my unborn child and myself.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my husband, Michael Dunsmore, or myself.

Sincerely,

Melanie Dunsmore (and baby)

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