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## Don't come north, NWT docs tell colleagues

WebPosted Jun 11 2003 05:46 PM CDT

**YELLOWKNIFE** - The stakes continue to climb in the N.W.T.'s dispute over specialist doctors. The CBC has obtained an email the Alberta Medical Association sent to Alberta doctors. It advises them that the Northwest Territories Medical Association wants them to decline work as replacements – known as locums – in the N.W.T.

- FROM JULY 11, 2003: Doc resignations won't impair care: Miltenberger

The email was written by Ron Kustra, the assistant executive director of the Alberta Medical Association.

Kustra writes: "The Northwest Territories Medical Association is asking physicians not to practise as locum physician specialists until a new agreement is signed with the territorial government."

Ken Seethram, the president of the Northwest Territories Medical Association, says his association has only advised Alberta doctors to be very aware that N.W.T. specialists are negotiating a new deal.

That's not what the Alberta Medical Association says. An official with the association says the email was simply conveying a message received from the Northwest Territories Association.

Michael Miltenberger, the N.W.T.'s minister of health, says the email raises major ethical questions.

"I'm shocked that the Northwest Territories Medical Association would take that tactic, putting negotiations and demands for more money above patient safety," he says.



Stanton hospital may lose its specialists – and Alberta docs are being asked not to fill in for them

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Miltenberger says he's also heard that the same request was put to individual doctors in Alberta.

- FROM MAY 12, 2003: Bargaining docs put squeeze on N.W.T.

The N.W.T. government is looking to Alberta specialists to temporarily serve in the territory. A dozen specialists in the N.W.T. have submitted resignation letters that come into effect July 1 if they don't get a new deal.

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**David Krutko /YK /LEG**

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**From:** darcyfia /unix [darcyfia@ssimicro.com]**Sent:** June 6, 2003 11:14 AM**To:** Lisa Richinger /YK /EXEC; Tony Whitford /YK /LEG; Steven Nitah /YK /LEG; Stephen Kakfwi /YK /EXEC; Sandy Lee /YK /LEG; Paul Delorey /YK /LEG; Michael McLeod /YK /LEG; MARGARET.EMBLETON /unix; Leon Lafferty /YK /LEG; Joseph Handley /YK /EXEC; Jane Groenewegen /YK /LEG; Floyd Roland /YK /LEG; David Krutko /YK /LEG; Charles Dent /YK /LEG; Brendan Bell /YK /LEG; Bill Braden /YK /LEG**Cc:** darcyfia /unix**Subject:** specialists doctors

The specialists who have made it known that they will resign as of July 1,2003 should all be let go. Who in their right mind believes that these people are worth \$499,000 a year on average with 60 days of holidays. You the government made a fine offer of average \$399,000.00 per year (of which I still believe to be to much) and if the specialists don't want it, than let them go. I'm sure we will be able to manage in the interim and attract other doctors for the jobs required in the months to come.

Our nurses work long hard hours and they received a pittance of 4%. It would be a slap in the face to all of our other health care workers If theses greedy doctors get their raise. At \$399,000.00 per year with 60 days of holidays and weekends off, not including stat holidays that works out to give or take \$2156.00 a day per actual work day. I am ashamed of them for wanting so much.

We could probably take the doctors wages for the next few months and medevac all patients needing specialist care. We already medevac a large number of patients because a particular specialist is on a day off or on holidays.

Sandy Lee's petition only seems to scare the public. Nowhere in her statement does she mention what the doctors are getting now or what a 17%, 27% or heaven forbid 57% raise would mean for the taxpayer. I believe that a large number of the people signing that petition didn't bother reading the whole page of tiny font and were not given enough information to make a reasonably informed decision.

I believe there are doctor specialists out there who are not in the position only for the money, and if we can show them they are welcome in our great community and the things we offer, they will come.

Thank you

Darcy Milkowski

Resident of Yellowknife.

