



SEP 29 1992

John Todd, MLA  
Keewatin Central  
c/o Legislative Assembly

Dear Mr. Todd

### **Planning for Health Services**

I am writing further to our discussions regarding the planning efforts now under way or contemplated, particularly those whose aim is to develop a strategic plan for the Keewatin, and ultimately for Nunavut. A common understanding of the tasks ahead, and how they are to be accomplished will facilitate their timely completion to the benefit of all.

I have made it clear, most recently in presentations to the NWT Health Care Association, and subsequently to the Inuvik Regional Health Board, that the development of a plan for the delivery of health services is a very high priority. Indeed, it is critical to the welfare of the population and to the financial integrity of the GNWT. Changes in service delivery, modification of existing, or the addition of new facilities can be considered only after a need is documented through an appropriate health services plan.

Health service plans will be developed for communities, regions and for the NWT as a whole. The planning exercise will be a collaborative effort between community and regional representatives, health boards and the Department of Health. Other departments and agencies will become involved as the process matures. The process will consist of the a needs study, master program and master plan. The initial phase, the needs study, should evolve from the development of community and regional health profiles. This process is under way in Fort Simpson, Fort Smith, and Hay River and appears, at this early stage, to be a promising approach.

The Department is forming a planning group consisting of two planning officers, a researcher and statistical analyst to support the Board planning initiatives. It is expected the bulk of the data collection, sorting and validation can be done by department or board staff, but consultant assistance may be required. The department has prepared a draft set of indicators for community services; these will be amended and augmented as we gain experience.

Currently, there is \$300,000 in the 1992/93 capital plan for the development of regional health plans. Allocation to date is \$130,000 to KRHB, \$100,000 to BRHB, and \$70,000 for the department. These proposed expenditures are modest, in relation both to the importance of the task, and to the amounts devoted in the past to the isolated planning for individual facilities.

The Keewatin and Baffin regional health services plans, and the Nunavut Health Plan are scheduled to be completed by September, 1993. A Western equivalent will follow by early 1994. The outcomes of the plan can then be translated in to the 1995/96 OPPlan and Capital Plan.

For your information, I am sending a copy of my remarks to the NWT Health Care Association last week. I would be pleased to receive your comments.

Yours truly,



Dennis Patterson

Attachment