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Keewatin Regional Health Board
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October 5, 1990

Mr. Peter Ernerk
M.L.A. Avilik
Rankin Inlet, N.W.T.
X0C 0G0

Dear Mr. Ernerk:

During a recent meeting of the Keewatin Regional Health Board, the matter of this region's long standing medical affiliation with Manitoba and the proposal by the Department of Health to shift to an east-west affiliation with Yellowknife and Edmonton, Alberta were discussed at length. The Board expressed unanimous opposition to this proposal.

As noted in the attached resolution on this topic, the Board does not believe that patient travel to the west for medical treatments is in the best interest of patient care. Further, the long association with the Northern Medical Unit of the University of Manitoba has led to mutual trust and understanding between physician/specialists and Keewatin residents - a bond that the Board is most reluctant to break.

The patient support and transportation systems established over the years in Churchill and Winnipeg function smoothly and efficiently. The Board is not confident that they could be reproduced between the Keewatin and Yellowknife/Edmonton, while maintaining existing patient care standards and practices. Although the Board's position on this matter is firm, the door is open for discussion and planning in search of a solution that is acceptable to all.

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The Board has directed me to request that you bring this matter to the floor of the Legislative Assembly and express your strong support for maintaining the existing medical and diagnostic services in Winnipeg.

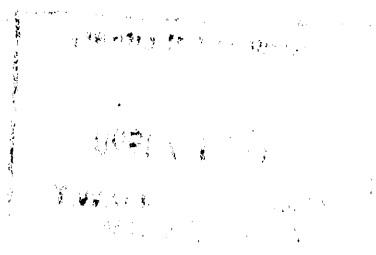
Thank you for your cooperation in this most important matter.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Vaydik
Chairman

Attachment



KEEWATIN REGIONAL HEALTH BOARD

OCTOBER 2 & 3, 1990

MOTION #22-9

Moved By: Caroline Anawak
Seconded by: David Kritterdlik

Whereas the KRHB believes that it is not in the interest of patient care for Keewatin patients to travel to Yellowknife and Edmonton for services.

Whereas the Keewatin patients are pleased with services being provided by physicians and hospitals in Winnipeg and have established sound patient services in Winnipeg which reflect this need.

Whereas there exists a lack of similar services for Keewatin patients in Yellowknife and Edmonton including boarding home interpreters, transportation, acceptable contractor, repatriation and similar size pool of physician and specialist services who know the Keewatin people.

And whereas there continues to be a lack of adequate airline service between Keewatin and the Western Arctic for patient travel.

Therefore be it resolved that the KRHB:

1. Contact all three Keewatin Members of the Legislative Assembly, by letter, to bring forth this matter in the fall session and express our strong support for continuing to utilize the services in Winnipeg. KRHB also send a letter or fax directly to the Minister of Health on this issue.
2. Contact all Hamlet Councils, KRC, and KIA to request they add their support by asking them to also contact their MLA and insist they raise our concerns in the Legislative Assembly.
3. And that the writing and sending of these letters be given top priority by KRHB Administration.

Carried