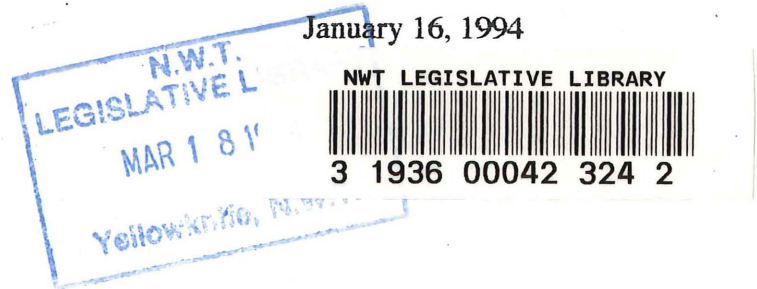


January 16, 1994

To: Brian Lewis

From: Judy Callas

**ISSUE**

Lack of Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) services to school age children in Yellowknife.

HISTORY

- A Tri-Ministerial Committee was established several years ago to examine children's issues. The assignment of the mandate for the provision of services for children has yet to be determined.

- Feb/93

Stanton Hospital Speech Language Therapy Department sent a letter to all users saying that they would no longer see new school-age referrals.

- Sept 14/93 (minutes attached)

Hospital called a meeting to meet with 'stakeholders' affected by the reduction of SLP to school age children. Health and Education representatives and concerned parents attended. An overview of the present situation was explained and a Steering Committee was formed to examine ways to move children's needs to the attention of those controlling funding for the SLP services.

- Nov. 23/93 - (minutes attached)

The Steering Committee met and decided to request a meeting with the Deputy Ministers (DMs) of Health, Education and Social Services to create awareness of the issue. The Steering Committee will also ask for the status of the Tri-Ministerial Committee's commitment to the SLP services.

The hospital and school districts reported that they have received calls and letters from concerned parents.

The hospital reported that it hired a 2nd Speech Pathologist that will begin work at the end of November. This is a position that has been vacant due to staff resignation and is not an additional position. The hospital can still not meet the needs of school age children.

Hospital SLP will assist the program support teachers to identify the children with speech problems. The schools will then tell the school superintendents how many kids require speech therapy. The superintendents will forward that information to the Speech Language Department of the hospital.

Note: Terry Keefe indicates that Mildred Hall has 37 children for referral and the total number for the district up to and including junior high school age is 91 kids. He said the real number is likely three (3) times that if proper assessment was available.

- Dec 13, 1993

The Speech Language Departments reported that they met with the teachers on December 9, 1993.

The meeting with the DM's is scheduled for January 6, 1994. The following people will represent the SLP Steering Committee:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| SYH | Lynn Olenek, CEO |
| YK District #1 | Terry Keefe, Superintendent |
| YK District #2 | Loretta Foley, Superintendent |
| Parents | Linda Henry |
| Parents | Judy Callas (Lynn Elkin-Hall attended instead) |

- Jan 6, 1994

Meeting with DMs of Education, Health and Social Service. The above history and the following points were presented.

Assessments at southern facilities are being discontinued which is creating a demand for SLP services in the north.

SLP services to Western Arctic communities are provided by the hospital. It is difficult to provide this service due to lack of money. Kids from communities attending YK schools that then require speech therapy often arrive without the accompanying assessments & funding from their communities of origin. This puts further demands on the SLP services within YK which are already severely limited.

When SLP services at the hospital were discontinued last year, many parents thought they were on a waiting list for help. There is no waiting list.

The above issues were identified in the CHILDRENS ISSUES part of the Special Committee Report on Health and Social Services.

ACTION REQUESTED

The DMs are to tell us what is being done by the Tri-ministerial Committee and we have asked them to provide us with some direction and options. They are to let us know by the end of February.

Judy Callas