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Yukon-Charley N.W.T.

P.O. Box 18  
Tsiigehtchie  
N7 X0E0B0  
April 26, 1999

RE: HEALTH CARE IN TSIIGEHITCHIC

Dear Health Rep,

We, the residents of Tsiigehtchie, have been having many, many concerns and complain and problems with the health services and health care we have been receiving in Tsiigehtchie since the summer and most certainly since October 1998. I have been asked -discreetly- by some residents to bring this out into the open or bring this to someones attention by asking <sup>that</sup> officials from the IRHSSB be asked to come to the community and hold an inquiry such as the ones that were held in Atkasit and Fort McPherson. Many of the elders have concerns and don't know where to go or who to talk to. They are scared they may not be able to get treatment/care if they speak against the local Health Centre Staff. Health concerns was on the agenda for the elder/youth gathering held in Fort McPherson back in March, 1999 but even then no one showed up not even from

The Fort McPherson Health Centre. You must remember that health care is one of our inherent rights along with dental and eye care. These things have been brought up at many of our assemblies of the past. I am not sure about this but I think some people have even gone to Inuvik to see the doctor on their own. I know I have a good mind to do that before break-up. Some can't even see the doctor who comes "only once a month." As of April 22/99 I think that's the last doctor clinic until after the ferry is officially open for the summer. Many of the elders have lost confidence in the health centre nurse. We don't even know when the monthly doctor's visit will be anymore. Perhaps if we knew we would make an effort to see the nurse before the doctor comes in. I, myself, have been getting sick with the cold on & off since Christmas Eve and I believe it's because I was refused the flu shot when I asked for it at the beginning of December, 1998. If you have this hearing/meeting in Ijuigbitchic (AND PLEASE DO!) you will hear alot. On behalf of my elders I ask that you look into this and take action as soon as possible. I know that everyone had a good feeling when we found out we were getting a full time permanent

nurse in Igigik-chic this fall but since then feelings have changed a lot from what I'm hearing now. Yesterday when <sup>you</sup> ~~you~~ the Doctor was in I phoned the health centre for an appointment and was told I couldn't be seen by the Doctor because <sup>she</sup> she was all booked up. I was to wait until after the Doctor left (about 4<sup>30</sup> or <sup>30</sup>) to be seen by the nurse who would in turn put me down for the next Doctor's visit (after treatment). Anyway I would get a phone call letting me know when to come and see the nurse. The call never came. I went to the local store and bought my own Tylenol and cough mixture. We have to buy our own medicine now, too. Like I asked what happened to inherent rights? I also made and drank some <sup>SPICE</sup> Gum juice to cure my chest infection - which is what I wanted to see the Doctor for. I had this chest infection since April 18/99. Also, there's complaints that the CHS and the nurses never make home visits - the patients "have to" go to the health centre - even how ill the person feels or is. I would think that for an R.N. with 20 years experience in the north she should at least once go to someone's home if she were called for. She wouldn't even give advise on the phone during lunch hour. PLEASE DO SOMETHING FOR US SOON. Sincerely Louisa André

