

# RESPONSE TO PETITION

No.  
1-15(5)

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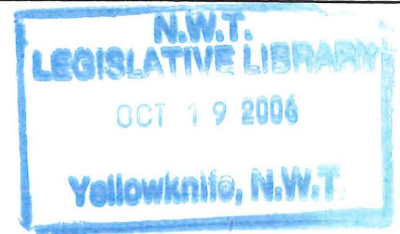
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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Petition tabled by Mr. Robert McLeod on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2006

Response by the Honourable Michael Miltenberger

Minister of Health and Social Services



## Specialist Surgical Services Located in the Inuvik Regional Hospital

The Department of Health and Social Services, the Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority and the Stanton Territorial Health Authority agree on the importance of continuing the delivery of surgical and obstetrical services at the Inuvik Hospital. The Inuvik Hospital has been designated as a location where surgical and obstetrical services will be delivered. Funding from the Department for these services remains intact.

In March 2006, the Deputy Minister and the Medical Director for Stanton Territorial Health Authority traveled to Inuvik to meet with the Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority to discuss improvement of the administrative arrangements for the continued delivery of surgical and obstetrical services at the Inuvik Hospital through specialist physician services, and to explore ways of expanding services through more regular visits by a general surgeon. Dr. John Morse, the Medical Director at Stanton, is continuing to work with Inuvik's Dr. DeKlerk to enhance specialist visitation schedules to the Beaufort Delta and to assist with on call coverage. Copies of the letters that were sent both to the Authority and aboriginal leaders in the region are attached for your information.





Northwest Territories Minister of Health and Social Services

FAXED 4901  
Chase

Ms. Nellie Cournoyea  
Chair and Chief Executive Officer  
Beaufort-Delta Regional Council  
BAG SERVICE 21  
INUVIK NT X0E 0T0 *Nellie*

APR 18 2006

Dear Ms. Cournoyea:

**Emergency and Surgical Services at the Beaufort Delta Health and Social Services Authority**

Thank you for your letter of March 15, 2006, related to Surgical and Anesthesia services for the Beaufort Delta region. Like you, I am committed to sustaining these services for the people of your region.

This past week I had asked Mr. Chuck Parker, Deputy Minister and Dr. John Morse to travel to Inuvik to meet with senior staff at the BDHSSA to address the issues that have been raised directly. I understand that the meeting was successful and the major issues that were raised by Dr. de Klerk related to the staffing of physicians have been resolved. A copy of the letter that sets out the items agreed to at that meeting is attached for your information.

Also, I was pleased to hear that there is a joint commitment to not only maintaining services levels but also expanding them through more regular visits by a General Surgeon. Mr. Parker has also committed to meeting with the senior staff at the Authority within three months to ensure the arrangements that have been agreed to are functioning in a way that contributes to the continued provision of Surgical and Anesthesia services in Inuvik.

Again, thank you for raising this concern with me and I look forward to ensuring that each issue has been addressed in a reasonable manner.

Sincerely,

*J. Michael Miltenberger*  
J. Michael Miltenberger

Attachment

- c: Honourable Floyd Roland, MLA, Inuvik Boot Lake
- Honourable David Kruko, MLA, Mackenzie Delta
- Mr. Robert C. McLeod, MLA, Inuvik Twin Lakes
- Mr. Calvin P. Pokiak, MLA, Nunakput
- His Worship Mayor Peter Clarkson, Town of Inuvik
- Ms. Deborah Tynes, Chief Executive Officer, BDHSSA
- Mr. Chuck Parker, Deputy Minister, HSS





Northwest Territories Minister of Health and Social Services

FAXED

Mr. Fred Carmichael  
 President  
 Gwich'in Tribal Council  
 BOX 1509  
 INUVIK NT X0E 0T0

APR 18 2005

Dear Mr. Carmichael:

**Emergency and Surgical Services at the Beaufort Delta Health and Social Services Authority**

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Recently I have received correspondence from Ms. Nellie Cournoyea, Chair of the Beaufort Delta Regional Council, regarding Surgical and Anesthesia services in Inuvik. As you are no doubt aware, concerns have been raised related to the government's ongoing commitment to this service.

I have responded to Ms. Cournoyea to express the commitment of the GNWT to this service and thought that it is equally important for you to be aware of our commitment and to provide you with copies of recent correspondence related to this.

As you will note from my response to the recent letter, the GNWT is fully committed to ensuring Surgical and Anesthesia services are sustained in Inuvik over the long term. We are continuing with funding levels to the BDHSSA to cover the costs of this service, as well as working through some of the practical barriers to accomplish that overall objective. Related to this I have recently had Mr. Chuck Parker, the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services and Dr. John Morse travel to Inuvik to work directly with the senior staff at the Authority to resolve the primary issues. I believe that all of the misunderstandings on both fronts have been addressed satisfactorily.

Should you wish to discuss this service, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

J. Michael Miltenberger

Attachment

- c: Honourable Floyd Roland, MLA, Inuvik Boot Lake
- Honourable David Krutko, MLA, Mackenzie Delta
- Mr. Robert C. McLeod, MLA, Inuvik Twin Lakes
- Mr. Calvin P. Pokiak, MLA, Nunakput
- His Worship Mayor Peter Clarkson, Town of Inuvik
- Ms. Deborah Tynes, Chief Executive Officer, BDHSSA
- Mr. Chuck Parker, Deputy Minister, HSS





Northwest  
Territories Minister of Health and Social Services

FAXED

APR 18 2006

Ms. Evelyn Storr  
Chair  
Beaufort Delta Health and Social Services Authority  
Bag Service #2  
INUVIK NT X0E 0T0

Dear Ms. Storr: *Evelyn*

**Emergency and Surgical Services at Beaufort Delta Health and Social Services Authority**

I have recently received a letter from Ms. Nellie Cournoyea, Chair of the Beaufort Delta Regional Council, reinforcing the issue raised by your Board related to Surgical and Anesthesia services for your region. As noted in my response, attached, I asked Mr. Chuck Parker, Deputy Minister, to travel to Inuvik to address the issues that were raised.

At this point I believe that all issues raised in your letter and the follow up letter from Ms. Cournoyea, have been resolved to the satisfaction of the Department and to the senior administration at your Authority.

Thank you for raising this with me and please ensure that your full Board is aware of the steps that were taken to resolve this issue.

Sincerely,

J. Michael Miltenberger

Attachment

c: Ms. Deborah Tynes  
Chief Executive Officer, BDHSSA

