



Alternatives North

November 29, 2015

Michael McLeod
Member of Parliament
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. McLeod:

Congratulations on your recent election to our Parliament. Representing the interests of the people of the Northwest Territories is a great honour and responsibility.

I am writing today as part of Canada's National Medicare Week. At this time each year we celebrate our public health care system and recommit ourselves to work towards its improvement and preservation.

As a public health care advocate and member of the Canadian Health Coalition, Alternatives North is reaching out to share our vision for public health care. We join the voices of many others across the country contacting their Members of Parliament and the Minister of Health to make our expectations for Canada's public health care system clear.

I am pleased that Prime Minister Trudeau has committed to renegotiate the health accord with the provinces to provide a long-term funding agreement. Please do your part to ensure that equivalent benefits flowing from such an Accord accrue to the three northern territories as well.

Additionally, there is a pressing need for a National Drug Plan. You are no doubt aware that almost a quarter of people in our country have not taken necessary medications because they could not pay for them and that the implementation of this plan could save as much as \$11 Billion annually. Due to the number of Indigenous peoples living in the North we also ask you to take an active role in the review of the Non-Insured Benefits Program (NIHB) currently underway in Ottawa. Indigenous peoples are receiving less adequate care than average Canadians as a direct result of the deficiencies of this program.

As we look at the increasing health care needs of our aging population, it is clear that we are in desperate need of a plan. A National Strategy for Seniors Care must include the appropriate continuum of care providing hospital care, long-term care, homecare as well as hospice and

palliative care. It will fall to you and other northern MPs to ensure that any such strategy addresses the needs of Canadians living in northern, remote and rural parts of the country. Our aging population deserves nothing less.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie-Sue Derejko". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Katie-Sue Derejko

On behalf of Alternatives North