

Health and Welfare
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Santé et Bien-être social
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Received in
P.R.E. Branch
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Room 1924
Jeanne Mance Building
Tunney's Pasture
OTTAWA, Ontario
K1A 0L3

June 9, 1977

Your file votre référence

Our file Notre référence

Dr. Katie Cooke
Director, Research Division
Policy, Research and Evaluation Branch
(Indian and Eskimo Affairs)
Room 204
400 Laurier Avenue West
OTTAWA, Ontario
K1A 0H4

Dear Doctor Cooke:

RE: HEALTH SERVICES IN LABRADOR

In April of this year our Department received a report from Dr. Peter Sarsfield entitled "Survey of Health Facilities in Northern Labrador, 1977". Dr. Sarsfield had been commissioned by the Naskapi Montagnais Innu Association and the Labrador Inuit Association to undertake this study for/on their behalf. A copy of the report is attached for your information. Following receipt of this report a team of Medical Services Branch Medical Officers visited Northern Labrador during the period April 11 - 15, 1977 in order to ascertain whether or not Dr. Sarsfield's report on the situation of health and related conditions in Labrador were as desperate as described. The Medical Services Branch team was unanimous and thought Doctor Sarsfield's report was understated with respect to the living conditions of the Native People in that area of the country.

We also attach a copy of Dr. O.J. Rath's observations regarding health and related problems which the Native People of Labrador face on day-to-day basis. It was felt that you and other members of your Department should be aware of the findings since they relate in large measure to the social, economic and living conditions of the Native People.

The Deputy Minister in our Department has been made aware of the situation and will no doubt be contacting your Deputy Minister. ||
Would you be so kind as to let us know when your Department becomes

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Dr. Katie Cooke

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involved to the point where you may be placing the issue before your Deputy in order that we can keep Mr. Rawson appropriately informed. In our view any effective approach must necessarily be comprehensive and therefore multi-departmental in character.

Should you wish further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,



J. G. Sinclair
Director General
Program Development
Medical Services Branch

Encls.