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# Memorial

University of Newfoundland

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Discipline of Surgery  
Faculty of Medicine  
The Health Sciences Centre

June 15, 2006

The Honorable T. Osborne, Minister  
Department of Health & Community Services  
Government of Newfoundland & Labrador  
Confederation Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, West Block  
P.O. Box 8700  
St. John's, NL  
A1B 4J6

Dear Minister Osborne:

**RE: PATHOLOGY MANPOWER CRISIS**

I am writing with respect to the current shortage of pathologists in the province. Pathologists are critical members of the health care team who are essential to the management of patients with surgical diseases, especially cancer. Currently there is a significant shortage, much of which relates to an inability to be competitive in the marketplace for these highly trained physicians. This is especially crucial at a time when we hope to increase our capacity to decrease waiting lists, particularly in such critical areas as cancer care. I am writing to encourage you and your officials to recognize the importance of pathologists to the health care system and to take necessary steps to ensure that we have a sufficient supply of pathologists well into the future.

If you require further information or input from my office I would be pleased to try and provide it.

Yours sincerely,

W.G. Pollett, MD, FRCSC  
Professor & Chair  
Discipline of Surgery

WGP/sw

cc: Dr. N. Denic, Pathology, SCMH  
✓ Dr. R. Ritter, NLMA