

FEB 14 2006



Eastern  
Health

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Children's and Women's Health Program  
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February 10, 2006

Mr. Robert Ritter  
Executive Director  
Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association  
164 McDonald Drive  
St. John's, NL  
A1A 4B3

Dear Mr. Ritter:

RE: Laboratory Medicine (Pathologists)

I would like to give my support to the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association, yourself and the Department of Laboratory Medicine in their efforts to try and fill the vacant positions that we have in St. John's primarily and also in the outlying areas. I understand that Clinical Chief of Laboratory Medicine together with representatives from the NLMA as well as the Clinical Chief of Oncology and Cancer Treatment will be meeting with the Deputy Minister to try and find a solution to this ongoing problem.

In today's environment of super specialization I feel that we need the bodies to do this work. We are getting busier especially if we are going to institute on a province-wide basis cervical pap screening, as well as increased access to diagnosis and treatment of all cancers especially breast.

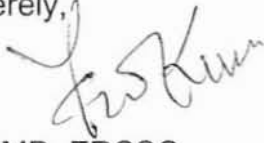
For many years we have been like the proverbial ostrich with our heads in the sand relying on either international medical graduates or our own local graduates who are prepared to stay. There comes a point however, that this position will not hold any more as there are severe problems of remuneration and retention of excellent physicians. It is a very competitive market to try and attract these individuals to our province but relying on our uniqueness cannot be used any more.

I would strongly support your efforts in your negotiations with the Department of Health in recruiting the physicians necessary as we are fast approaching a stage where the present group of pathologists would not be able to keep up with the volume due to their decreasing numbers.

Mr. Robert Ritter  
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I would have no objection if you use any part of my correspondence with you today in your negotiations with the Department of Health.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. N. Kum', written in a cursive style.

F. N. Kum, MD, FRCSC  
Co-Clinical Chief  
Children's and Women's Health Program (Women's)

FNK/mtf