



29 JAN 1963

1000-1-85

PA.

OUR FILE NO. 1000/138  
YOUR FILE NO.

DEPARTMENT OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL RESOURCES

NORTHERN ADMINISTRATION BRANCH

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Ottawa, 23 January, 1963.

P.E. Moore, Esq., M.D., D.P.H.,  
Director,  
Medical Services,  
Department of National Health and Welfare,  
O T T A W A.

Dear Dr. Moore:

I attach a copy of a memorandum sent in by our Area Administrator at Igloolik, N.W.T., asking that a nursing station be provided in that settlement.

A nursing station had been planned for Igloolik in 1963-64. The cost of this station would be met almost entirely from Federal funds and like many other projects may be deferred. Will you please let me know what your present planning on this station is so that I can advise our District Administrator.

Yours sincerely,

*B.G. Sivertz*  
B.G. Sivertz,  
Director.

FILE NO:

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208-REGISTRATION  
INDIAN HEALTH

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INDIAN HEALTH  
SUB-REGISTRY

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FILE NO:

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1931





OUR FILE NO. 553-1

YOUR FILE NO.

NORTHERN ADMINISTRATION BRANCH

CANADA  
DEPARTMENT

OF

NORTHERN AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL RESOURCES

Igloolik, N.W.T. October 1st., 1962

MEMORANDUM TO:- Regional Administrator  
Frobisher Bay, N.W.T.

MEDICAL SERVICES - IGLOOLIK SETTLEMENT

During the visit of Doctor Colburn of INHS to Igloolik this summer, he requested this office to supply him with some statistics, and some general information concerning the settlement and the area in general upon which could be based possible justification for improved medical facilities to the community and to the area. In addition he asked for a report on facilities as they are at present in order to form a comparison.

Possibly there may be on file in the Regional office a copy of a report submitted in 1960 concerning medical services at Igloolik which included the suggestion of the placement of a staffed nursing station at Igloolik. The situation as reported at that time is relatively unchanged, other than an increase in the population figures.

Medical services are carried out here by the R.C. Mission, who act as lay dispensers both for the settlement and the camps trading into Igloolik that do not normally pass through Hall Beach en route to Igloolik, which covers at a minimum estimate over two thirds of the population of the area. Their training is minimal, and their feelings concerning the responsibility involved quite strongly in favour of turning over the work to more trained personnel, preferably a nurse. Fr. Fournier's feelings in this connection are as strong, if not stronger than they were in 1960.

The feelings of the community, particularly the whites, is that a nurse and a nursing station on full time duty is essential.

Within the community, we have the following white personnel;

(1) D.N.A. & N.R.	- Area Administrator, wife & 1 child	3
	- School Principal - single	1
	- Community Teacher - Single	1
	Community teacher, wife & 3 children	5
	- Equipment Mech., wife & 3 children	5
(2) H.B.Co.	- Manager, single	1
	- Clerk	1
(3) R.C. Mission	- Two missionaries.	2
TOTAL		19

Permanent Eskimo population employed permanently and residing in the settlement are as follows;

(1) D.N.A. & N.R.	- N.S.O. Assistant, wife & 2 children	4
	- School Janitor, wife & 3 children	5
	- Equipment Operator, wife & 2 children	4
(2) H.B.Co.	- Eskimo clerk, wife & 3 children	5
	- Eskimo assistant, wife & 5 children	7
(3) School hostels	- Hostel parents, 2 families total 5 children	9



,) Permanent Eskimo Population	118
(5) Hostel children attending school	14
Total .....	168
Total population of community on permanent basis	187

In addition to the people residing in the settlement itself, is a camp on the eastern portion of the island, approximately twelve miles from Igloolik settlement. This camp contains upwards of forty people, which would bring the total population immediately accessible to a nursing station here to approximately 220 persons.

At present we have a nursing station at Hall Beach, which at present cannot be contacted directly by radio, though attempts to set up some form of communication are in progress. Patients taking ill either in the camps north, west, and east of Igloolik, including the Raffin Coast, must first come to Igloolik, by whatever means they have, and then proceed when weather permits to the nursing station at Hall Beach. The distance from Igloolik to Hall Beach is approximately 20 minutes by aircraft, (no charters available); average six to eight hours by fast canoe; (in summer); and average three hours by bombardier (in winter when operational) and twelve hours by dog team (in winter). The sixty four miles from Igloolik to Hall Beach is not quite as easy at it would appear.

The only solution that can be seen for the medical situation in this area is the placing of a nursing station at Igloolik, adequately staffed, and with at least twelve hospital beds.

As for the nursing station at Hall Beach the general feeling is to reduce it to the level of a clearing centre for transient patients, and move the treatment centre closer to the centre of population.

I have been informed that with the DEMline station at Hall Beach, the personnel of that station are considered as part of the population of the area for medical purposes. This does not seem correct, as the base personnel are supplied with complete medical services, both Eskimo and white employees, with a doctor available, and first aid and full medical office.

Dr. Colburn suggested the possibility of visits by Hall Beach nursing station staff to Igloolik at least four times a year, to spend an average of three weeks at a time performing public health nursing and generally looking after the health of the community. The idea is good, and feasible, unless one takes into consideration the three points that have kept a program of this nature from being carried out in past years, which are; (all quite freely expressed by nursing station staff)

- (1) The Dept. National Health & Welfare frowns on nurses travelling in the Eastern Arctic (subject to question)
- (2) Clothing for the trip which would be absolutely essential to keep the individual from either freezing or suffering a most uncomfortable trip, must be supplied at that individuals expense, like this department, INHS does not supply clothing for winter travel. This is considered an individual responsibility. At an average of \$250.00 an outfit, this can be a large expense for an individual.
- (3) Weather, and travel conditions do not permit such a large program, minimal as it is, as experienced travellers in this area are the first to admit.

As our staff enlarges, and as the population increases, the problem of medical services is going to become more acute. It is most unfortunate that present staff was informed that nursing and medical services were available in Igloolik, as this is one of the main points of worry for the married personnel, particularly their wives. It is a point that will in time cost us staff, if an emergency develops that is not answered or dealt with quickly enough to satisfy the staff that their problems have been given some consideration. The whole subject of medical services has been a sore point here for some years, and it is hoped that future plans will be giving consideration to the points shown.

*A. P. Wright*  
A. P. Wright Area Administrator



B.H.

1000-1-~~65~~<sup>66</sup>(M17)

OTTAWA 4, 30 January 1963.

Mr. B.G. Sivertz,  
Director,  
Northern Administration Branch,  
Department of Northern Affairs &  
National Resources,  
Kent-Albert Building,  
OTTAWA.

Dear Mr. Sivertz,

Health Services at Igloolik, N.W.T.

Thank you for your letter dated 23 January 1963, enquiring about a nursing station at Igloolik. We shall pass on the figures provided by Mr. A.P. Wight to our Regional Superintendent, Dr. J.H. Wiebe.

The Health Services Plan, N.W.T. 1962-67 (Revised) provides for the construction of a health station at Igloolik, not a nursing station. The former type of health facility is defined in paragraph 25 and Note (a), Appendix C of the Plan. The latter is defined in paragraph 21 of the Plan. The former is really a "short stay cabin", for a visiting nurse to use for a few days or for an emergency patient to be bedded down until transportation out can be arranged. The latter of course is more like a small "cottage hospital". The former costs \$12,000 to build, the latter from \$50,000 to \$120,000, depending on location. Operating the former costs about \$2,600 a year. Operating the latter costs \$36,000 a year.

It is not impossible, of course, to arrange for a nursing station to be built at Igloolik, but it would be necessary to make a sacrifice somewhere else to do so within the terms of the Federal-Territorial Financial Agreement. Theoretically it could be done, I

M.



Mr. B.G. Sivertz

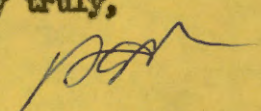
-2-

30 January 1963.

suppose, if the Territorial Council were to vote special funds for its share, outside of the financial limitations of the Health Services Plan.

I assume that, if you feel there is a high priority requirement for a nursing station at Igloolik, you will make formal representations to this effect, indicating the willingness of the Territorial Administration to share both in the capital and in the operating and maintenance costs.

Yours very truly,

  
P. E. Moore, M.D., D.P.H.,  
Director, Medical Services.

cc: Reg. Supt. Eastern Region.  
bb

M:



150-1-E6(E70)

Kenson Building,  
233 Metcalfe Street,  
OTTAWA 4, Ontario.

23 April, 1964

Rev. R. Haramburu, O.M.I.  
Curate of the Hudson Bay Missions,  
R.C.Mission,  
CHURCHILL, Man.

Reverend Father:

I must first apologize for the delay in replying to your letter. Secondly, one would be remiss if one did not record appreciation for the many services provided by you and your staff through the years.

I understand your uncertainty as to why the nursing station was built near the airbase instead of at the village of Igloolik. You will recall that in 1956 and 1957 the Dew Line development was proceeding rapidly and the best advice that could be obtained indicated that a substantial settlement would develop near the Foxe Base and that in fact the bulk of the Eskimo population would migrate as they had done in a number of other places. So certain did this development appear that a hospital was actually built, there being evidence that this point would become the cross roads of arctic air travel. You will recall that the hospital itself burned early in its career and the nurses residence was converted into the present nursing station.

Of the population served by this nursing station approximately 120 live at the airbase or in camps south of here. Of the remaining 350 Eskimos in the area approximately 100 (more or less) live permanently at Igloolik. The balance of 250 or so live in camps on the northern tip of the Melville Peninsula or the southern coast of Baffin Island.

You can therefore understand that it would be difficult to justify a second nursing station at Igloolik as long as the present one at Foxe is in operation. Because it is at the centre of communications, there can be no thought of closing it down.

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MEDICAL SERVICES

002200



Therefore, we have had to plan in a slightly different direction. Last year we sent to Igloolik a cabin to be used by our staff when visiting Igloolik and for very sick patients who could be held there until help arrives. This may be considered as the first step in the development of an organized health program at Igloolik. We hope, as soon as suitable staff is available, to base a nurse at Igloolik on a visiting basis at least. It is impossible to predict what the ultimate development will be as this will depend upon the population permanently based at Igloolik.

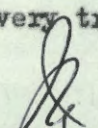
I trust that the above will, to some degree, explain the situation in the Foxe-Igloolik area. It remains under constant study in an effort to improve it.

In the meantime we wish to thank your representative at Igloolik, Father Fournier for his services. As soon as it is possible we will advise who will take over responsibilities that he has carried so well.

Should you again find yourself in Ottawa, please make a point of visiting my office so that together with my staff we can discuss this problem of mutual interest.

With kindest personal regards,

Yours very truly,

  
J. H. Wiebe, M.D., M.P.H.  
Regional Superintendent,  
Eastern Region, Medical Services.

c.c. Director  
c.c. Zone Supt., Eastern Arctic

JHW:cf



Director, Medical Services.

Our File: 100-1-E6 (E98)

Kenson Building,  
233 Metcalfe Street,  
OTTAWA 4, Ontario.  
15 June 1964.

Mr. R. L. Kennedy,  
Administrator of the Arctic,  
Dept. of Northern Affairs  
and National Resources,  
Blackburn Building,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

Re: Medical Services - Igloolik, N.W.T.

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

As I am sure you are aware, we have been concerned for some time regarding the provision of medical services to the Igloolik area. The amount of care apparently required, the considerable load which devolved on the D.N.A. Teachers, and the recent resignation of our lay dispenser, Father Fournier, have increased the importance of reaching a practical solution in the near future.

Depending upon the availability of nursing personnel and other factors including climatic conditions, we are contemplating putting a female single nurse into Igloolik on a provisional basis to provide some continuity in medical care and supervision and, at the same time, assess the situation at first hand with regard to continuing need.

The health station which was erected by native help in 1963 is reported by our staff to be inadequate for use for accommodation. We would like to ask if you could secure from your Area Administrator information as to the availability of living accommodation at this settlement and when and for how long this would be available.

We would also appreciate this officer's suggestions or recommendations with regard to the appointment of a lay dispenser who would be able to handle any urgent problems in the interval before the arrival of our nurse. The Nurse-in-Charge, Foxe Nursing Station, has taken over the

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drugs and supplies from the former lay dispenser and would certainly be in a position to smooth over the transition period for the new dispenser.

In closing, it is only fair to say that we cannot be too optimistic about putting a nurse into Igloolik before 1 September 1964 since this location will require a nurse reasonably experienced in field work. Needless to say, these experienced nurses are in short supply and, at the present time, we do not have anyone who would be available for immediate assignment.

Sincerely yours,

Original Signed By  
C. G. RAND, M.D.

J. H. Wiebe, M.D., M.P.H.,  
Regional Superintendent,  
Eastern Region,  
Medical Services.

CGR/mm

c.c. Director, Medical Services.

c.c. Probysher Bay General Hospital.

RECEIVED  
MEDICAL  
1964



E70  
FILE

100-1-E6 (E98)

Zone Superintendent,  
Eastern Arctic Zone.

12 June 1964

Medical Services - Igloolik, N.W.T.

A meeting was held this morning with Dr. Wiebe, Miss McDonald, and the undersigned, to discuss the situation in the immediate future with regard to the provision of medical supervision at Igloolik. It was noted that, effective 1 May 1964, the Roman Catholic Missionary, Father Fournier, was no longer accepting responsibility as lay dispenser.

It was also brought out, following a telephone discussion with Dr. Brett, that some local inhabitants were writing to the Member of Parliament, Mr. Rheame, regarding alleged backward conditions in the Igloolik area. Since agreement had previously been reached that this was a sensitive area which needed prompt attention, it was felt that it would be desirable to have this put into effect as soon as possible and preferably before the matter was brought to a head publicly.

The principal questions to be considered in this connection would seem to be as follows:

1. The presence of a continuing need for a full-time nurse at this location.
2. Appropriate living accommodation and proper working area at the site.
3. The question of timing the arrival of any staff member with relation to break-up.
4. Availability of staff within the Region for this location.

It was agreed that, when the climatic conditions and the personnel situation were favourable, we would put in a nurse, initially on a temporary basis. Accommodation will have to be available in the settlement and the length of stay would depend upon the nurse's appraisal of the situation following observation. A letter was to be written immediately to the Administrator of the Arctic requesting information from the Area Administrator with regard to living accommodation and a possible temporary lay dispenser until we are able to put a nurse into the area.



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The question of the amount of accommodation available in the settlement was raised and note was made of the new building which is being erected for the R.C.M.P.

Subsequent to this meeting, it was learned from Dr. Brett that Miss Charchidi, a nurse at Frobisher Bay General Hospital, was prepared to go into Igloolik following some annual leave. She apparently is somewhat unhappy in hospital practice and hence would be leaving Frobisher Bay at her own request in the near future. He suggested that, unless he heard further from this office, he would allow Miss Charchidi to proceed with her plans to come out on Tuesday, 16 June 1964 for a couple months annual leave. It was suggested that she might find it convenient to return to the Hall Beach-Igloolik area in time to fly in with Colonel Beswick on or about 17 August 1964 with the R.C.M.P. aircraft. Dr. Brett stated that he would have Miss Charchidi get in touch with Miss McDonald on her arrival in the south with regard to future plans.

Original Signed by  
C. G. RAND, M.D.

C. G. Rand, M.D.

CGR/mm

c.c. E70  
E72



1000-1-E5  
14  
MEMORANDUM

CLASSIFICATION



TO  
A

Director  
MEDICAL SERVICES

YOUR FILE No.  
Votre dossier

OUR FILE No. 100-1-E6  
Notre dossier 150-1-E6(E70)

DATE 18 June, 1964

FROM Regional Superintendent,  
De Eastern Region.

FOLD  
SUBJECT Medical Services, Igloolik, N.W.T.  
Sujet

The attached copy of a memorandum to file from the Zone Superintendent, Eastern Arctic Zone, records some of the attitudes held by officers of Eastern Region respecting the increase of medical services at Igloolik.

Should representations be made to the Directorate at the political (or other) level, cognizance may be taken of the following facts:

1. The need for a part-time nurse at least at Igloolik has been recognized for several years. It has <sup>not</sup> been physically possible to provide such part-time service out of Foxe Nursing Station. Transport is simply not available. Only when an airstrip is developed at Igloolik will the problem of transportation have been solved.
2. It has been impossible to find staff for Igloolik. Even our public health nursing positions at Frobisher Bay have been vacant almost continuously for the past two years. Intermittent filling in by non-trained personnel has been the order of the day.
3. We have a prospect.

*J. H. Wiebe*  
J. H. Wiebe, M.D., M.P.H.

JHW:cf

PA.





M10  
1000-1-ES  
MEMORANDUM

CLASSIFICATION

TO  
A Miss Bea Prindiville.

YOUR FILE No.  
Votre dossier

OUR FILE No.  
Notre dossier

FROM  
De Parliamentary Secretary.

DATE June 25, 1964.

FOLD

SUBJECT  
Sujet Nursing Station,  
Iqoolik, N.W.T.

Attached is photostat copy of letter from  
Mr. Rheume, M.P.

Would you please have the Department prepare  
a letter for my signature.

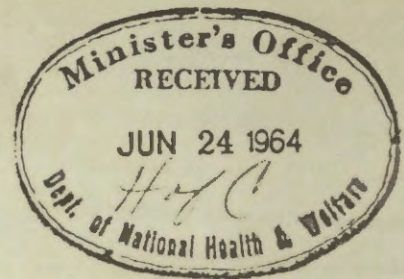
*John B. Munro*

Parliamentary Secretary.





House of Commons  
Canada



Ottawa, Ontario,  
June 22, 1964.

Honorable Judy LaMarsh,  
Minister of National Health & Welfare,  
House of Commons,  
OTTAWA, Ontario.

Re: Nursing Station,  
Igloolik, N.W.T.

Dear Miss LaMarsh:

I am enclosing a copy of a telegram I received from the people of Igloolik, N.W.T. about their urgent need for the services of a nurse in their community. I have already discussed this case by telephone with your Doctor Butler who assures me that the matter is being looked into and that there is a good prospect of having a nurse in Igloolik by August.

The basic problem seems to be lack of housing for a nurse and I have just been advised that accommodation through the Department of Northern Affairs will not be available as had been hoped. In the telegram, however, Mr. Cumming (Hudson's Bay Company manager) and Rev. Nashook indicate that other accommodation may be available.

I sincerely hope you will keep this urgent matter in mind. I need add nothing to the details provided in the telegram which states the case plainly

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and completely. I would be pleased to have confirmation from your office that the matter will be resolved in accordance with the wishes of the people of Igloolik.

Yours sincerely,

*Gene Rheaume*

Gene Rheaume, M.P.,  
Northwest Territories.



*M.H.*  
PLEASE RETURN TO DIRECTOR, MEDICAL SERVICES,  
WHEN SIGNED.

*P.H.* File: 1000-1-E5 (M16)

*PA*  
Ottawa, July 4, 1964.

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Mr. Gene Rheame,  
Member of Parliament for the  
Northwest Territories,  
House of Commons,  
Parliament Buildings,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Rheame,      Nursing Station, Igloolik, N.W.T.

The Minister has asked me to reply to your letter of  
June 22nd.

The need for a public health nurse at Igloolik has  
caused concern for some time but the difficulties in securing a suit-  
able recruit have been considerable. Transportation problems have  
made it impossible to supply part-time nurse coverage from Foxe as  
planned and, as the Reverend Mr. Nashook and Mr. Cumming have in-  
dicated in their telegram, an obstacle to resident nurse coverage has  
been the lack of suitable accommodation at Igloolik.

Early last month we did secure a nurse, who is  
expected to arrive at Igloolik toward the end of August, and accom-  
modation for a limited period has been promised. If no new difficulties  
arise, these arrangements will meet the immediate needs of the community  
and also provide an opportunity for assessment of future requirements.

Please convey to the Reverend Mr. Nashook and Mr.  
Cumming assurance of our continued interest in the health of this  
community and our hope that present plans will accomplish what is  
desired.

Your support of our efforts in this area is deeply  
appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

John Munro.

M161

*Original signed by  
J. Munro.*

*S*



Regional Superintendent,  
Eastern Region,  
Kenson Building,  
Ottawa, Ontario

PA →

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ON	
FILE(S)	

Medical Services

Nov.20,1964

Nursing Services - Igloolik, N.W.T.

Attached is a copy of a letter I have received from Mr. Gene Rheaume, M.P., which is self-explanatory.

I think you should include Igloolik in your next Estimates and in the meantime make an effort to get a nurse in there as soon and as often as is practical.

P. E. Moore, M.D., D.P.H.  
Director.





House of Commons  
Canada

ORIGINAL	800-1-X070
COPY	823-1-X070
ON	
FILE(S)	

Ottawa, Ontario,  
November 19, 1964.

Dr. P.E. Moore,  
Director, Medical Services,  
Department of National Health  
and Welfare,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Dr. Moore:

Re: Nursing Services - Igloolik, N.W.T.

This letter is to confirm the discussions we held in Frobisher Bay the other day about the urgent requirement for the people at Igloolik to have the services of a nurse in their community. As you know, at the present time the nursing station is located at Hall Beach, the main DEWLINE site, some 60 miles by land from the Eskimo settlement at Igloolik. There are approximately two hundred people at Igloolik right now and another two hundred living in camps trading into the Post at Igloolik. I understand that the Department of Northern Affairs also operates a Hostel containing approximately twenty school children from other parts of the area. Unfortunately, the Eskimo settlement has no airstrip so that it is not possible in real emergencies to get to the nursing station at Hall Beach or for the nurses to get to them.

The long range solution is to build a nursing station in the Eskimo settlement where it perhaps should have been built in the first place. On the basis of our discussions in Frobisher Bay, it is my understanding that your Northern Health Services Agency is prepared to give this location priority and that the nursing station will be built at Igloolik as soon as steps can be taken to do so.



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MEDICAL SERVICES  
SUB-REGISTRY

Nov 20 10 35 AM '64

HOUSE OF COMMONS



It is also my understanding that in the meantime your officials will try to arrange to have a nurse or nurses go into Igloolik for a period of several weeks at a time to meet some of the health needs of these people. I believe I mentioned to you that the settlement is prepared to assure suitable accommodation for any nurse who might be able to serve in this temporary sort of arrangement.

I know how difficult it is to obtain nursing staff for places such as these and I know too that your Department has many other priorities to meet. I also know how anxious the people of Igloolik are to not be precariously isolated from health services as they are now. I would very much appreciate being kept advised of any arrangements your Department might be able to make.

Yours sincerely,

*Gene Rheaume*

Gene Rheaume, M.P.,  
Northwest Territories.



*P.A.* →

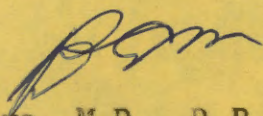
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COPY	823-1-X070
ON	
FILE(S)	

Ottawa 3, Ontario  
November 20, 1964

Dear Mr. Rheaume:

Thank you for your letter confirming our conversation regarding the nursing situation at Igloolik. We will endeavour to get construction started as soon as possible, but it probably will not be until the summer of '66. In the meantime if we can locate a nurse and get her in there for a few weeks at a time we shall do so. Travel conditions, as you know, are very difficult.

Yours very truly,

  
P. E. Moore, M.D., D.P.H.  
Director,  
Medical Services.

Mr. Gene Rheaume, M.P.  
House of Commons,  
Ottawa