

TO: THE EDITOR  
TERRACE BAY NEWS

On Wednesday, March 10, 1976 the Board of Governors of the McCausland Hospital announced that they had found it necessary to make reductions in staff. In its cutting of hospital costs in the province, the Ministry of Health has decreed that the McCausland Hospital must cut \$23,500 from its staffing budget. In order to accomplish this saving, the Board plans the following actions:

- cut Registered Nursing staff from 2 R.N.'s per shift (6 R.N.'s in 24 hours) to 1½ R.N.'s on day shift and 1 R.N. on each evening and night shifts. (3½ R.N.'s in 24 hours).
- increase Registered Nursing Assistants from 1 on each of days and evenings to 1 on each shift.
- decrease dietary and housekeeping staff by one full-time staff and cut the housekeeping supervisor by ½ days per week.
- possible decrease of one part-time secretary.
- create a position for a full-time registered laboratory technician.
- create a position for a full-time X-ray technologist.

The money which the Board is planning to save through these changes is in actual fact false economy. The majority of staff cuts proposed are at the level of professional worker - i.e. the Registered Nurse. The worker that the Board is hiring to replace the R.N. is less qualified non-professional worker, the R.N.A. Because the R.N.A. does not have the competencies and skills passed by the R.N. and because the R.N.A. would often require supervision by the R.N., the Board will find it necessary to maintain R.N.'s on a 24 hour standby basis. As the case load dealt with by the hospital staff often requires the utilization of 2 R.N.'s at the same time, any money which the Board is saying they will save will actually be needed to pay for call-in of R.N.'s which would then be at a premium rate.

Herein lies the false economy. It would seem to the writer that it is much more reasonable to maintain a staffing pattern of the R.N.'s per shift whose skills will be readily available to the patient in the hospital and the person seeking treatment through the out-patient emergency area. The skills of an R.N. on call are not very useful to the patient in distress if the R.N. is still at home and the only person free to help him is a lesser qualified R.N.A. who legally must not practice beyond her capabilities and educational background.

In place of competent R.N.'s to provide direct patient care, the Board is offering the public a full-time lab. technician to operate an incompletely equipped laboratory when these kinds of services are already offered by the Provincial Lab. in Thunder Bay. The Board is also offering the public a full-time person to take their x-rays. Unfortunately, neither of these staff persons will be available to the public on evenings, nights or weekends and do not possess the skills offered the patients by the R.N.

The net result to the users of the McCausland Hospital, Terrace Bay, will be sadly decreased quality of care and the probability of lack of qualified assistance in times of distress and emergency, and even loss of life.

If you as a potential user of the Hospital services are not willing to accept the minimal care being proposed by the Board of the McCausland Hospital, please let them know.

Yours Sincerely,  
YOUR NURSES

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Mrs. R. McAdam	825-3675
Mr. R. Wills	825-3331
Mrs. J. McEwen	825-3265
Mrs. S. Mikus	825-3640
Mr. W. Houston	825-3857
Mrs. B. Usher	825-3658
Mrs. M. Puttock	825-3562
Mr. R. Bray	825-3376
Mrs. D. Rummery	824-2197
Mr. S. Kirkpatrick	824-2552
Mr. B. Tilbury	824-2480.

YOUR AGUASABON GOLF CLUB 1976 EXECUTIVE

President - D. Rattray  
 Vice-President - P. Spadoni  
 Treasurer - C. Buck  
 Secretary - R. Cotton  
 Committee Chairmen - Membership - P. Cebrario; Tournaments - R. Lapointe; Handicap - W. Miller; House - Howard Solly; Publicity - R. Sinotte; Entertainment - T. O'Driscoll.

## MOOSE BINGO

The Loyal Order of Moose will sponsor a Bingo on Thursday, March 25th at 8:00 p.m. in the Moose Hall, Terrace Bay. Bus leaves Schreiber Post Office at 7:15 p.m.