

# Letters to the editor

## Response to lack of home health care needed now

Dear editor:

Home health care is one of the most humane and cost effective ways of providing care to the sick and elderly. It allows individuals to be cared for in the comfort of their own homes and results in a positive financial impact on the total health care system.

Unfortunately, the providers of this vital service are threatened by a critical shortage of staff to supply home health care and support. Essentially, the problem is that the service is underfunded by the government, and the agencies supplying the service cannot offer high enough wages to attract staff.

People are the backbone of the home health care delivery system. To ensure the integrity of home care service, there is a need for training programs and competitive wages and benefits.

The issue is one of money, distributed in a fair and equitable manner. The challenge is one of laying the foundation to move from local and regional programs, equitable and thoughtfully to a co-ordinated

provincial effort.

The government has recognized the problem and responded by requesting the Interministerial Review Committee Report on Ontario Homemaking Services. Personnel from five provincial ministries in consultation with interested groups produced a report last fall addressing the critical issues of wages, education, the rate setting process and rate structure.

Tragically the government has not yet released this report or taken any action to address the issues.

Surely a report which would focus attention of the needs of this vital health care sector should not be delayed. Nor should a piecemeal

approach to this province-wide challenge be accepted.

A response which addresses these critical challenges within the scope of an equitable, provincial system is needed now.

**Michael Clayman  
President  
Ontario Home Health  
Care Providers' Association**

*(The Ontario Home Health Care Providers' Association has a mandate to represent both non-profit and profit members, care-givers, and consumers through the development and protection of Home Health Care Service Standards.)*

## Task force looks at general lack of health services

On May 30, 1988, we began a week of hearings in northwestern Ontario on health care. The response to our request for submissions has been overwhelming.

The focus of the hearings is the inadequacy of services, particular health concerns in the North like those related to mining or forestry, the problems with the payments for medically necessary travel and, most importantly, the solutions that people propose.

In 1985, New Democrats, led by long time Port Arthur MPP Jim Foulds, forced the government to pay medically necessary travel from Northern Ontario. But for us, this was only a partial solution.

The real problem is the lack of services that force people to leave

in the first place.

New Democrats will continue to fight for improved health care in Northern Ontario. We want to hear from the citizens of the northwest.

As Northerners, we have worked to have our voice heard at Queen's Park. The Liberals aren't listening.

Northerners should not be treated like second class citizens in Ontario. This week of hearings is one step in ensuring that we won't be.

**Ontario NDP  
Northern Caucus task Force  
on Health Care**

**Ed: The five-stop tour did not include Terrace Bay or Schreiber**

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## Church Listing

### Schreiber

**Grace Baptist Church**

Pastor: Rev. Jim Johnson. Phone 824-2402. Sunday School: all ages- 10 a.m. Morning worship service: 11 a.m. Sunday evening service: 7 p.m. Bible Study and prayer: Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Nursery provided for all services.

**Holy Angels Roman Catholic Church**

Pastor: Father Jan Rademaker, O.M.I. Phone 824-2010. Sunday Masses: Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Sundays, 10 a.m. Rosspport, noon. Confessions: Saturdays, 4-5 p.m. in Schreiber. Pays Plat Prayer Group: Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

**St. Andrew United Church**

Minister: Ernie Hunt. Phone 825-3346 or 825-3396. Morning Service and Sunday School are at 11:15 a.m. Communion Service is the first Sunday of every month. A nursery for infants is provided.

**St. John Anglican Church**

Pastor, Bob Elkin. Phone 824-2771. Service Time at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, 1st and 3rd Sunday. All welcome.

**Easter celebrations:** Palm Sunday, regular service times 9am and 10.30  
Maundy Thursday - 6 pm Sedor Supper and Eucharist.  
Good Friday Service - 1 pm  
Easter Vigil Saturday - 7.30 pm  
Easter Sunday - Regular Sunday Service - 9.00 and 10.30

### Terrace Bay

**Community Church**

Minister, Ernie Hunt. Phone 825-3346 or 825-3396. Worship service is every Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. Church School is also at this time. Communion service is every first Sunday of every month. A nursery is provided. A warm welcome awaits all.

**St. Martin of Tours**

Pastor, Father Bernard Campbell. Phone 825-3231. Confessions are on Saturday from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Sunday Masses are on Saturdays at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Birchwood Terrace, 1 p.m.

**Terrace Bay Gospel Assembly**

Pastor, Rev. Keith Milne. Phone 825-9098 or 825-9368. Family worship is on Sunday at 11 a.m. Wednesday night is Action Night from 6:30-8 p.m. Friday night is YOUTH ALIVE at 7:30 p.m.

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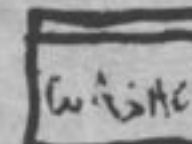
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