

Honourable Everett Hindley, Minister of Rural and Remote Health  
Room 208 Legislative Building 2405 Legislative Drive  
Regina, SK S4S 0B3

Dear Everett Hindley,

I would like to draw your attention to an ongoing issue that we have at Candle Lake.

Our full time population in the last census was 1160. Our summer population can be as high as 12,000. Is there another community in Saskatchewan with our population that has one (1) half-time nurse practitioner?

Our present nurse practitioner has been working here since June 2020 and for the 3 years prior to that, our nurse practitioner service was very sporadic as we have had many changes with our NP's, even to a point of not having any service here for months due to a shortage of NP's.

Currently our population is using the services here more frequently because they feel they can rely on the NP to be here, but this has resulted in a 3 week wait time for an appointment with the NP. Our nurse practitioner is currently too busy and she can no longer take on new patients who would like her to be their primary care provider. As well our NP has been doing lab services every second week, then delivering the specimens to Prince Albert, but will be unable to do this service through the summer as she does not have time during her day.

Our residents have up to a 60 minute drive for other health care in Prince Albert.

We are aware that there is a shortage of health care workers in the province, but we feel that the provincial government has been ignoring Candle Lake for many years. Our population, especially during the summer swells to thousands and our distance to any other health care facilities should make us a priority but it has not. We have made numerous appeals to Saskatchewan Health to no avail so as our Minister of Rural and Remote, we feel that we need you to be working for us.

We appeal to you and your department to consider an increase in hours for our NP and health personnel at Candle Lake.

Sincerely,