

March 1, 2012

David Alward, Premier
Legislative Assembly, Centre Block
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, NB

Honorable Premier David Alward:

RE: Negotiations with Dental Society

The signatories to this letter are very concerned by the turn in the negotiations between the NB Dental Society and the provincial government.

From our understanding, the provincial government is covering right now 68% of the costs for dental work for recipients of Social Assistance. The NB Dental society is trying to negotiate a three years agreement with 70% for the first year, 77.5% the second year and 85% the third year. The government has proposed a one year agreement with 56% and 20% co-payment for all social assistance recipients. Our understanding, from the newspaper report is that Nova Scotia is reimbursing its dentists at 80%, PEI between 80%-85% and NFL at 90%, with no co-payment from recipients.

Mr. Alward, we believe New Brunswick should reimburse dentist similar to our sister provinces and certainly not ask seniors on social assistance or social assistance recipients for any co-payment.

As you are well aware, our province has a lot of seniors below 65 years old who are on social assistance. Our province has some of the lowest basic rate of assistance in the Atlantic Provinces if not of all Canada. Recipients are certainly not able to pay 20% of dental costs as proposed right now.

We urge you to negotiate a fair deal with the NB Dental Society and certainly not ask recipients for any co-payment for dental services.

We look forward to our earliest response in this regard.

Sincerely,

Linda McCaustlin (toby13@nb.sympatico.ca or 855-7046) on behalf of :

Assoc. acadienne et francophone des aînées et aînés du N.-B.- Hermance LeBlanc, President
CARP, Nelson Vessey, representative
Coalition for Seniors and Nursing Home Resident's Rights - Cecile Cassista, Executive Director
New Brunswick Common Front for Social Justice Linda McCaustlin, co-chair
New Brunswick Federation of Union Retirees - Barrie Hould, Treasurer ,
New Brunswick Senior Citizen Federation – Hermance LeBlanc, President,

Cc- Victor Boudreau, Leader of the Opposition
Dominic Hardy, leader of the NDP
Greta Doucet, Leader of the Green Party
NB Dental Society

