

opinion

TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

New Brunswick's Newspaper, Founded in 1862

Wendy Metcalfe, BNI Director of Content/Editor-in-Chief
Peter Conradt, Editor
David Spragg, Editor, Administration

health care

Need for physician assistants in N.B.

It needs to be all hands on deck in New Brunswick when it comes to addressing our congested hospital emergency rooms and medical clinics.

The Canadian Association of Physician Assistants is making a push in this province for widespread use of the health-care workers who help lighten the load for overworked doctors.

There is no need to tie up physicians with the many minor ailments that show up in ERs and clinics. Physician assistants work under the supervision of doctors, handling routine patient needs so physicians can focus on more complex cases.

It seems like the perfect answer to our clogged system. Physician assistants are widely used in other parts of Canada and across the United States where the positions were first developed in the 1960s. But for some reason, New Brunswick has not advanced beyond a small pilot project at the Fredericton hospital which has proved popular with everyone.

The Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital has submitted a request for three more physician assistants in addition to the three who have worked so successfully in the pilot program.

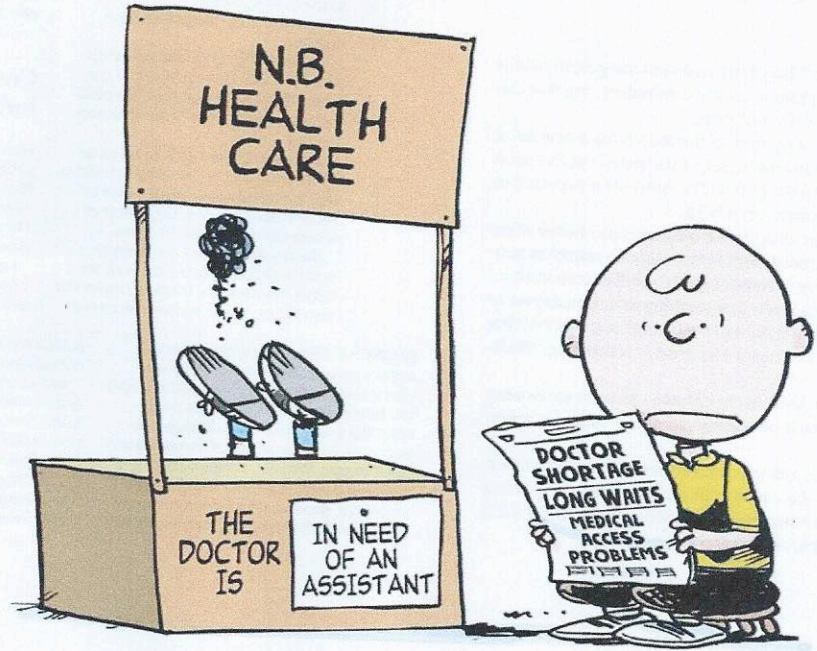
But the request so far has fallen on deaf ears. The provincial Department of Health said it's working to improve access to primary care services and reduce wait times in ERs "through other means." That is small comfort for someone who has been waiting for hours to get their child's sore ear looked at or a badly bruised leg checked out.

Clearly, more money needs to be spent so that ERs can hire the help they need, from more doctors and physician assistants to more nurses and nurse practitioners.

The Gallant government has raised taxes and fees across the board, including the recent hike in the HST. There is no more important job for a provincial government than making sure it is addressing the health care needs of its population, yet too many people in New Brunswick cannot get the care they need at ERs and clinics.

Physicians are frustrated, people are bewildered and the only answer the Health Department has is that it's looking for some other mysterious solution to address the problem.

If the provincial government is not going to proceed with the hiring of physician assistants, it needs to offer people a



RS TO THE EDITOR

Renaming river is the correct idea

I must say I was shocked at the words a noted historian spoke which are quoted in the Telegraph-Journal of June 14 in connection with the possible renaming of the St. John River. I normally have high respect for his scholarship but this time I must take exception to his opinion.

His words accuse people of trying to be politically correct, and saying, "I don't think you can erase history." That statement in itself makes me ask, what do you think has happened to the Maliseet and First Nation history, language, culture and lands in the past 500 years?

They were all forcibly taken away from them and the Wolastoq, which the Maliseets used for food, travel, resources for their lifestyle, was renamed to the St. John River.

Then he says the name changing will be endless with people demanding that such and such a name place be changes to so and so.

I doubt that will happen and even if it does, each request can be handle as it comes up.

He also supposes the First Nations people will be asking for all New Brunswick place names to be changed to place names in their own languages. I can't see that happening at all.

don't seem to want to intentionally hold up drivers, but often potholes and debris make riding at the extreme edge dangerous.

If I wrote a sarcastic letter about auto theft or vandalism, would my irrelevant opinion be published? I considered writing a letter stating that if a car is parked in the street it is fair game for theft because it isn't convenient for me.

Or perhaps it is parked in a driveway, so vandalism laws are ridiculous because the owner didn't take care to park it in a garage.

But I realized the editor would probably think I was silly and not publish the letter.

Aaron Everett
Saint John

Protect your keys with War Amp Key Tags

Most of us don't realize how valuable our car keys are until we lose them. With remote starters and built-in unlock systems, keys are not as simple or cheap as they used to be, with many owners paying hundreds of dollars in replacement fees.

But for more than 70 years, The War Amps Key Tag Service has been helping Canadians avoid these costs. Each key tag has a confidential number so

If you don't get behind this project soon, we'll be looking at yet another 'demolition by neglect' story.

If you're still crying about moving the library, how many times do they have to tell you the project doesn't hinge on that?

You're going to lose the ballet company's support because they have to move.

Believe it or not, time waits for no one and certainly not old buildings. The disrespect you show for the time and effort of previous heritage boards and the current proposal on the table, all of this volunteer time, it makes us continue to look like the lunch-bucket town we are.

Stand by to be homogenized. Canada Historic Places Day is July 8. Take a selfie in front of the old MHS and submit it on Instagram hashtag #historicplacesday

Beverley Barrett,
Moncton

Council vote done according to law

This is in response to a recent discussion regarding procedures followed by Moncton City Council at the June 5 regular council meeting regarding the contracting out of one zone of sanitation collection.

It should be noted that the New