

LETTER TO

THE EDITOR

Public's best interests in mind

Dear editor,

The Timiskaming Health Unit (THU) board of directors is made up of representatives from the 26 municipalities in the District of Timiskaming. Most are municipal mayors, reeves or councillors, with up to three being provincial appointees.

All directors have had governance training, both through their councils and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies. We also very closely follow the Ontario Public Health Organizational Standards set out by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

When the Health Unit outgrew the accommodations at the hospital we moved to the current location, which was more accessible especially for students and seniors, who had difficulty travelling up to the hospital.

It is unprofessional to print an editorial (*More accountability*, The Weekender September 20) inferring that Mr. Bond resigned because of a conflict with the board. Nothing could be further than the truth. Mr. Bond was a valued member of our board, and he considered our board to be his favourite appointment from his council. He had personal reasons for stepping down, and we accepted his position on the matter.

The resignation of Dr. Dutt stemmed from a difference of opinion, on the policies and directions, which are set out by our Board of Directors.

As far as the review that was conducted, it is always good to review our practices, to ensure that we are providing the services that the public has come to expect. With changing times, there are new programs from the Ministry, and staff have new ideas that may provide better service to our clients. With the proposed consolidation of the Northern Health Units, we want to show the Ministry that we are meeting, and where possible, exceeding the standards, which they set out. We want to ensure that the Ministry does not cut back on the programs that we now provide, and will continue to work with the other four Health Units in the North-East, to protect your best interests.

Sincerely,

Carman Kidd
THU Board Chair