

*Tabled by the or. member  
for Torngat mountains  
K. Habukey George with  
November 3, 2024*

**Evans, Lela**

**From:** Evans, Lela  
**Sent:** September 17, 2024 10:07 AM  
**To:** Hogan, John  
**Cc:** McGrath, John; 'david.diamond@easternhealth.ca'; Elliott, Susan; Keith, Nadine; Politi, Ashley; Petten, Barry  
**Subject:** Letter of Concern: Continued Barriers to Health Care For Torngat Mountains Patients  
**Attachments:** Torngat Mountains\_Letter Re Patient Travel Barriers\_24-09-07.docx

Hon. John Hogan  
Minister of Health and Community Services  
Government of Newfoundland & Labrador  
Main Floor, West Block, Confederation Building  
P.O. Box 8700, St. John's NL A1B 4J6

Dear Minister Hogan,

**RE: Continued Barriers to Health Care For Torngat Mountains Patients**

Dear Minister Hogan,

I am writing as I did to past Health Ministers, to bring attention to the barriers that patients in my district of Torngat Mountains continue to face when trying to travel to their scheduled medical appointments.

Patients in my district are restricted to airline flights for all travel to their medical appointments. Sadly our patients have endured a long history of being bumped off medical flights resulting in missed appointments including chemotherapy treatments. I have raised the issue of these frequent 'bumpings' repeatedly in the House of Assembly through petitions, Question Period and also during debate on legislation.

I was told in June 2024 that medical flights would increase to address the medical travel shortfall and its resulting harm. However, since the rollout of the 'new' patient travel program patients are experiencing less flight access than ever before. The impacted patients share their experiences with me, of being continually 'bumped' preventing them from traveling when scheduled.

Failure to deliver on promised flights is not only disappointing but it impacts patients' overall health, quality of life, and sadly for some, reduces their lifespan. Your department staff have the information regarding the barriers my constituents in Torngat Mountains face. Also, Hansard has a record of all my speeches, petitions, questions, and debate where I outlined in the House of Assembly the failings and the harmful consequences to my people. I am asking that your government work to make this right. Ensure the increases in medical travel that were promised to us are delivered.

Yours sincerely,

Lela  
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