



Dear Friends,

This Christmas share the joy of giving the best kind of gift, a gift that helps our entire district and supports health care close to home! Santa Claus is coming to town and through your generosity we hope some new physicians will too!

Last year, with your help, Riverside Foundation for Health Care was able to raise \$30,000 to contribute towards the purchase of a much needed courier van for Riverside Health Care Facilities and we are grateful for your generous support! In the spirit of the Christmas season, we hope that you will once again donate generously from the heart and give your community a gift that will benefit all.

This year we are raising funds to assist in the recruitment of new physicians for our district. For over 15 years, the Physician Recruitment Committee (the "Committee") has been working diligently to attract new physicians and general surgeons to our district and to retain those presently serving us. Since 2015 alone, the Committee has recruited two general surgeons and eight family physicians. Without the continuous recruitment initiatives and fundraising efforts of the Committee, it is safe to say that the doctor shortage in our district would be much more severe. The Committee needs your support.

The facts of our current situation are:

- At LaVerendrye General Hospital there is currently one general practitioner anaesthetist and nine family physicians that also provide Emergency Room, long-term care, inpatient care and clinic services. At least two more general practitioner anaesthetists and three more family physicians are needed to support them. Residents outside of Fort Frances will also benefit from access to General Surgeons, the Obstetrics department and hospital inpatient services at LaVerendrye General Hospital.
- The Committee is also relying on your donations to help recruit two new family physicians for the Emo Health Centre.
- Rainy River Health Centre is heavily staffed with locum services and would benefit from your donation to assist them to fill their long term physician recruitment needs.

The Committee supports the use of locum (temporary) physicians to keep the Riverside Emergency and Surgical Departments open by providing them with travel stipends. Filling the physician vacancies will greatly reduce the need to employ locums and, in turn, reduce the number of travel stipends that must be paid by the Committee.

The Committee needs your support, even if you already have a family doctor. The hospitals and health centres throughout our district struggle to retain physicians. Physician retention is made much easier when physicians are able to work in a robust, active, healthy group practice that fosters collegial support, reasonable practice volume and a work-life balance.

To donate, please complete the enclosed donation card and return it in the envelope provided. Thank you for your continued support.

Merry Christmas and may good health and happiness be with you.

Yours Truly,

Wm. E. "Bill" Gushulak
Chairman of the Riverside Foundation for Health Care Board



*If you wish to receive a 2018 tax receipt for your donation, please contribute by December 31, 2018.