

Email to Murray Coell (April 19, 2010 )

**Good Afternoon Murray**

**I write you regarding the continuing lack of surgical services at Lady Minto Hospital on Salt Spring Island.**

**Many months have gone by since your last communication to me assuring the Save Our Surgery Committee that a needs assessment of health care services on Salt Spring Island would be carried out and a report tendered by December 31, 2009. At the time I indicated to you that this decision was suspect in the community as a delaying tactic and the results therefore not expected to be meaningful. It seems we were right to be sceptical. The interviews were carried out but the report has not yet become available. I have no wish to criticise or malign Mr. Hollett but he is an employee of the VIHA. The Committee believes that a knowledgeable person at arms length from the Health Authority would have been a far better choice.**

**I have been in contact with Mr. Hollett on a number of occasions. On the first occasion he explained that his work had kept him from being able to complete the report which suggests it was of low priority. In the last communication, which was lacking in substance and only partially answered the questions I had put to him, he said that the report was tabled with the VIHA executives. How much longer are we expected to wait?**

**The Committee and the community remain disappointed with your failure to arrange a meeting with the Minister of Health and your promise to attend with us. It seems the needs assessment was a ploy to avoid that meeting.**

**I am forwarding to you a copy of the editorial from the March issue of the BC Medical Journal**

**The views expressed by Dr. David Richardson are shared by the members of this community. The specifics of the services that have been cut or compromised are different but the basic issues of the removal of some services, employee dissatisfaction in the workplace and the cavalier attitude to quality of patient care are the same. Permission has been obtained to print the editorial in the April 21 Driftwood.**

**Regards,**

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