

Letter - Keep our children safe

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As I glanced at the front page of the Driftwood last week I smiled at the picture of the cute, face-painted little boy listening to his birthday bear's heartbeat.

I read with interest the caption explaining Sunday's Minto M.A.S.H. event to show off the latest hospital equipment. Then a terrible thought entered my mind.

I just hope and pray that the children at the event or any child on the island never need emergency surgery at a time when weather does not allow for helicopter evacuation to Victoria. The latest hospital equipment would be no use to them then. Another Lady Minto event turns sour in my mind.

Having worked at Fulford school for 16 years and another three years at SIMS, I know a lot of children on this island. Many of those children now have children of their own. I personally have two very precious great nephews living here. There is a good reason for my concerns. I am also concerned for my family, friends and all the people living on Salt Spring who deserve better and have the right to proper surgical care at the closest hospital.

As I continued reading my Driftwood I came across the Viewpoint, "Don't let go of OR issue, says SOS" by Ruth Tarasoff and Phyllis Bolton. I suddenly felt a little better. I have never met either of these women, but have the utmost respect for their knowledge, determination and willingness to fight for a cause that touches all the residents here. I responded to an earlier letter written by Ruth Tarasoff to the Driftwood.

I again feel the need to respond since their concerns echo mine. I urge anyone who didn't read their viewpoint to go back and read it now as they state the issues much more clearly than I can. It is important information we all need to ponder.

I also urge all mothers, fathers, grandparents and anyone who knows a child on this island to sign one of those postcards if you are not one of the 2,000 who have already signed up.

Take their good advice: "Write letters, toot horns, do anything but don't let go of this issue." Our children depend on us to keep them safe.

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<http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com/opinion/letters/127911483.html>