



## Yukon Legislative Assembly

Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6



April 11, 2017

Hon. Pauline Frost  
Minister of Health and Social Services  
Box 2703  
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Dear Minister Frost,

**RE: Health insurance coverage for Nadja Cooper**

This letter is on behalf of Nadja and Daniel Cooper, who have contacted me for assistance. You will also have on file a letter they sent to the Director of Insured Health on January 23, 2017, which was copied to you.

In August 2016, Nadja and Daniel were married in the Yukon at his parents' home on Burma Road. Nadja is originally from Germany, and has applied to immigrate under the spousal sponsorship program. She has been a resident of the Yukon since September 2016.

Her husband Daniel was born and raised in Whitehorse, and has lived in the Yukon for most of his life. Nadja is pregnant with their child and her due date is in June, but she is still without health care coverage. The reason given by your department was that they were waiting for her application to be processed by the federal government.

Earlier this month, Nadja received her work permit from the federal government, and your department allowed her to apply for Yukon health insurance coverage. They also told her that she would have to wait three more months before receiving her Yukon health care card and being covered under the Yukon health insurance program.

While she is waiting to be covered under Yukon's health insurance program, she and her husband are having to personally pay for her medical appointments, laboratory tests, and hospital visits at Non-Resident rates. If she needs to be admitted to the hospital prior to the baby being born, she has been told that she will have to pay \$4,924 per day for the bed, plus any additional services required.

As I'm sure you know, the risk of complications during pregnancy can be increased by stress. I think it's important to recognize that worrying about whether she will be able to pay her medical bills is both a financial concern, and a potential medical risk for her and her baby.

I am aware that a three month wait period for insurance coverage is common, but under the circumstances, I urge you to ensure that everything possible is done to speed up the processing of her application for coverage.

To the best of my understanding, there is no legal impediment to immediately issuing Mrs. Nadja Cooper a Yukon health care card, and the Director of Insured Health should be able to do so now pursuant to Section 5 of the *Health Care Insurance Plan Act*.

Please recognize the importance of this request, and ensure that your department extends health care coverage to Nadja Cooper and her unborn baby without further delay.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Cathers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "C".

Brad Cathers  
MLA for Lake Laberge

Cc. Nadja and Daniel Cooper