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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

*Carol Hughes*  
Member of Parliament / Députée  
Algoma — Manitoulin — Kapuskasing

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February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB)  
10 Wellington St., Suite 1455  
Gatineau, QC  
K1A 0H4

To whom this may concern,

**RE: Masters NIHB applications**

I have recently received correspondence from a constituent of mine, Bridget Douglas, from Northern Therapy practice. She has reached out to me regarding her private practice on Manitoulin Island, in the Espanola area. Ms. Douglas is seeking support in her efforts to have her practice recognized as an exception when it comes to NIHB coverage for First Nation and Inuit Masters' students which they seek to employ. This will ultimately aid in improving accessibility to services in this area.

Currently, they are the only service that provides trauma therapy/treatment to children/youth and adults to this capacity in the area. There is a dire need for this type of service for seniors, children and indigenous individuals who are seeking services, as there are limited-service providers across the riding and long wait times.

As a result, Masters students in the north are leaving in droves to the south of the country looking for employment because these barriers are preventing students from accessing jobs in smaller communities such as Manitoulin island. Once established in bigger cities, there is little to no incentive for them to want to come back up north.



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My constituent, Dr. Douglas, humbly request that NIHB make exceptions so that her practice can employ the Masters students which would go a long way in these students to acquire their 1000 hours and would also help prevent out migration. This in turn will allow them to better serve the needs of Indigenous people who are in need of services/treatment to improve their well being, and would prove beneficial to communities as a whole.

I am supportive of this request and trust that you will give it the consideration it deserves. Like Dr. Douglas, I look forward to a favourable response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hughes', with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Carol Hughes. MP  
Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing