



December 21, 1981

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL STAFF

We are sure that you are only too well aware that the hospitals of British Columbia (with the exception of the U.B.C. Health Sciences Centre Hospital) are faced with the possibility of a strike by members of the Hospital Employees Union. This Union includes clerical, catering, cleaning and house-keeping staff, etc. A strike could occur as early as the first week of 1982.

The other major unions whose members work at V.G.H. have stated that their members may cross the picket lines if they wish but that they will only perform their usual duties, not those of workers on strike.

A strike against V.G.H. will seriously reduce the level of activity here. Depending upon the decisions of the Labour Relations Board, as many as 40% of beds may have to be closed. By law, the Hospital must be given 72 hours notice of a strike. During this time all patients who can possibly leave will have to be discharged. The remaining patients will be consolidated in as few nursing units as possible, in order to make the best use of the resources which remain available to us.

Admissions will be restricted to emergencies and extremely urgent cases, and many of these may have to be diverted to any hospitals which remain open.

If and when a strike is called please make sure that you are available so that you will be able to respond quickly to the need to expedite discharges.

If you have any questions please contact Mr. C.F. Riley, Chairman of the Strike Coordinating Committee (local 3425), Medical Administration (local 2203), Dr. A.D. Courtemanche (879-4020) or Dr. G.W. Korn (876-9288).

A.D. Courtemanche, M.D.,  
Chairman,  
Medical Executive Committee.

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I.M. Grant, M.B.,  
Medical Coordinator.

*Handwritten notes:*  
- Newscopists  
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