

Health minister meets with Wald Ambulance

By Michael Bennett

Last Thursday evening Health Minister George McLeod met with Wald Ambulance paramedic Donna Fiset and Alice Wald in an attempt to help resolve problems Wald Ambulance has had over the past year in performing emergency care in the area.

Since February of 1988, Wald Ambulance has had to restrict their emergency procedures after the Ambulance Services Unit complained about the paramedics not following "provincial protocols", although local doctors supported the work of paramedics, Steve Wald and Donna Fiset. For a short time the number of drugs in the ambulance's drug kits were also restricted by the Ambulance Services Unit.

The Minister met Mrs. Fiset and Mrs. Wald for an hour. The meeting was closed to the press, but later Wald Ambulance personnel said the meeting had very productive in that they could tell the Minister the type of emergencies they deal with on a regular basis and what protocols they need to respond effectively to those emergencies.

"We were really pleased with the meeting," said paramedic Donna Fiset. "He was really responsive and told us he thought the problem could be resolved. I was very impressed with him. He was interested in our situation. I felt that he was very reasonable and was extremely approachable."

Both Mrs. Fiset and Mrs. Wald were encouraged by the meeting

and said they were pleased to be able to talk to the Health Minister directly of the concerns of those providing emergency care to people in the area.

The Health Minister was in Assiniboia to take part in the cabinet meeting held earlier that day at the Asaskan Complex. The cabinet heard briefs from various groups

and organizations during the day. The meeting with Wald Ambulance was arranged following the meeting because of a shortage of time.



Photo by Michael Bennett

Health Minister George McLeod chatted informally with paramedic Donna Fiset and Alice Wald, office manager, before the meeting was closed and the two parties discussed emergency treatment in Assiniboia and area.