



Canadian Forces Base Penhold
Mynarski Park, Alta
TOM 1NO

9 July, 1985

Gordon Towers, Esq., M.P.
147 Confederation Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ont
K1A 0A6

Dear Sir:

I refer to your letter of 17 June, 1985 in which you enclosed copies of correspondence received from members of your constituency, most of them residents of Mynarski Park and spouses of military service personnel, concerning their stated desire to have a dental plan for dependants of military service personnel.

As we have previously discussed, a group calling itself the Organization of Spouses of Military Members (OSOMM), not officially sanctioned by the Department of National Defence, has been active in this area for the past while. One of the stated aims of OSOMM is to pressure for a group dental plan available to dependants of Canadian Forces personnel. It is my understanding that the enclosed form letters to you were distributed with one of OSOMM's circular newsletters and to which some recipients responded.

From my personal understanding, development of a dependant dental plan has been a subject of concern at National Defence Headquarters (NDHQ) for some time. In 1981, following research by our Directorate of Compensation Development at NDHQ, service members were advised that for several reasons including cost of the plan, lack of Federal Government financial support and the apparent low interest level within the Canadian Forces, it was decided not to proceed with a dental plan at that time. Although I do know that NDHQ interest has continued in the intervening years, I am not in a position to comment on the current state of any further discussion or negotiations. In order that you might receive current and official information on this topic, I would respectfully refer you to the Director of Compensation Development or the Director of National Defence Inquiries at National Defence Headquarters.

I have returned the correspondence which was enclosed with your letter. I hope that my response is of some assistance to you in this matter.

Yours truly,

J.I. Morrice
Lieutenant-Colonel
Base Commander