To our valued community members,

The Weeneebayko Area Health Authority ("WAHA") is committed to providing quality health care in the James and Hudson Bay Region. We take great pride in our work and the progress we have made by working in partnership with our communities and the organizations that provide supportive community-based services.

As you may be aware, Dr. John Waddell, has sent multiple emails and created Facebook posts that do not reflect favourably on WAHA services and physicians. We are deeply troubled by these communications and other erratic behaviour exhibited by Dr. Waddell.

The WAHA Board of Directors recently conducted a hearing to consider the recommendation of the Medical Advisory Committee ("MAC") of WAHA with respect to Dr. Waddell's application for privileges.

After careful consideration of the matter, including evidence and testimony from Dr. Waddell, the Board determined it is in the best interests of the patients that Dr. Waddell no longer provides services at WAHA. Dr. Waddell has since appealed the Board Decision to the Health Professions Appeal and Review Board.

The Panel wishes to thank Dr. Waddell for his years of service to their communities but cannot condone or accept his recent false and unfounded statements against WAHA and other highly valued healthcare team members. We hope Dr. Waddell will take some time to consider his actions and the impact these are having on the healthcare in the region.

We encourage anyone who has questions about the care they received within WAHA to submit their concerns in this manner, please visit http://www.waha.ca/client-satisfaction/ for more information.

If concerns are not resolved to your satisfaction, recent amendments to Ontario legislation have introduced a Patient Ombudsman who receives and responds to complaints from patients, former patients, and caregivers. For more information, please visit https://patientombudsman.ca/Complaints/Make-a-complaint

Please note that recruitment of professional staff is already difficult but even more so in remote areas. With this in mind, WAHA requests that we all work together to create an environment where healthcare providers feel welcome and part of the communities.

Many thanks for your thoughtful consideration,

Weeneebayko Area Health Authority