

## A LETTER TO PATIENTS FROM DR. DANNY ZIMMERMAN

Nov 1, 2020

Dear Bowmont Patients,

I have some news to share with you - I've recently made the tough decision that I am going to stop working at the Bowmont Medical Clinic as of January 1st, 2021.

I really enjoy working at Bowmont and this is not a result of any negative experiences at our clinic. It is mainly because I have developed a passion for Northern Medicine over the past year while working short term contracts in the Northwest Territories. As such, I have decided I will focus my work there in 2021.

If you are one of Dr. Bhatla's patients who has been seeing me, you may follow up with Dr. Bhatla as you have done in past years, and/or with Dr. Nicole Mensik. Dr. Mensik is an early-career family physician like myself who has started to work at Bowmont with Dr. Bhatla's patients. She will support his practice similarly to how I have over the past 2.5 years.

If you are not one of Dr. Bhatla's patients and have been seeing me primarily, you are included in the "Shared Care" group of patient's who are covered by a number of doctors at Bowmont and your chart will remain open. You will still be able to book appointments with the "Shared Care" doctors. Please consider making a phone or in person appointment to see me at some point over the next 2 months (though I will be away Nov 21st - Dec 16th) to ask any questions you have about your care after I am gone in 2021.

Though I can't predict entirely where work and life will take me, I hope that I might work with the Bowmont team again at some point in the future. It is possible you haven't seen the last of me. Regardless, I believe that Bowmont is an excellent clinic and that you will be well taken care of if you continue as a patient here.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to add my voice to the thousands of other healthcare workers' strongly opposing the changes our current provincial government is making to the healthcare system. There is always room for improvement and certainly fiscal realities can dictate a need to adapt, but I do not trust that the Premier or Health Minister value a strong public healthcare system. Certainly their actions suggest otherwise. I encourage you to read about the issue from good sources like the Edmonton Journal or Calgary Herald and consider contacting your MLA to let them know your thoughts.

Thanks for working with me over the past 2.5 years and all the best.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Zimmerman', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Danny Zimmerman, Family MD.