

Letter To The Editor

May, 17, 1961.

Dear Sir:

A recent editorial in your Journal, concerning the eligibility of foreign students under the provincial Hospital Insurance Plan has been brought to the attention of the Commission.

A word of explanation is in order, to correct any impression that foreign students are being discriminated against with regard to eligibility under the Hospital Insurance Plan. Foreign students may be, and frequently are, eligible for benefits.

Eligibility under the Provincial Plan is not acquired through the payment of a sales tax. Any person who has been a "resident" (as defined below) of Nova Scotia for at least three consecutive months immediately prior to hospitalization, is entitled to medically necessary hospital services, provided he is not otherwise entitled as under Workmen's Compensation etc.

A "resident" is defined in the Regulations under the Hospital Insurance Act, as one ". . . who makes his home and is ordinarily present in Nova Scotia, but does not include a tourist, a transient or a visitor to Nova Scotia.

The "foreign" student who is dependent upon his family for support, and who is temporarily in Nova Scotia solely to attend university cannot be regarded as one who makes his home and is ordinarily present in Nova Scotia.

On the other hand, the "foreign" student, who is married, has his wife (and family, if any) in this province with him in an established "home", and remains here during the entire college year, would ordinarily be regarded as a resident.

Needless to say, the Commission must reserve the right to judge each case on its individual merits, and none of the foregoing should be taken as approval of an individual case. Moreover, in certain circumstances, "foreign" students who are not married but who are attending college may be regarded as entitled residents.

Any student who is in doubt as to his eligibility should feel free at any time to ask the commission to indicate whether it would regard him as a resident.

Yours very truly,

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Executive Director,

HOSPITAL INSURANCE COMMISSION



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