

The Spurrell Family Part 13: Alan

Alan finally makes an appointment with his doctor. For the past three to four months he has been experiencing low back pain. He cannot remember any injury. He thought it would go away and so it has been going on for some time. He is worried because there is a history of Hodgkins and Colon cancer in his family. He also has a cousin with Crohn's disease and some form of eye problems associated with it. Alan cannot think of the name of this problem but he is wondering whether it is something that Mi'kmaq families get more frequently? Last month he had redness in his right eye that lasted a few days and went away.

The doctor questions Alan about his pain. He finds out that Alan's bowel movements are essentially unchanged but he is having problems with erections and some pain "in that area". He also has difficulty voiding at times. This really worried Alan and he was almost too nervous to tell the doctor about this. On further questioning, the doctor finds out that this isn't the first time that Alan has had this problem, in fact he has had it a number of times in the past but it has never gone on as long. He really can't remember when he felt "right down there".

The doctor examines Alan and finds a large and boggy prostate gland. He talks to Allen about what he can do in the short term and says he would like to see Alan back in a couple of weeks to discuss longer-term management with him. Alan is worried about possible cancer in the gland. The doctor says that they will look into that. He suggests a medication for Alan to take in the meantime. Alan's only worry is how this will affect his heartburn. The doctor wasn't aware that Alan had this problem and asked him some questions to confirm the diagnosis. He re-assures Alan that the medicine should not cause too much in the way of problems. They make a plan to meet in a couple of weeks after Alan has had some tests and treatment.