The Aboriginal Health Elective has been an important part of my medical education this year. Interested in rural family medicine, I find it hard to find electives to do in an Urban centre that will have direct relevance. The elective you offered provided me a learning opportunity that I will carry throughout my medical career.

Particularly, I appreciated the scope of the elective – I think this was its greatest strength. I found it interesting working through case studies, and placing them in the context of residential school systems; I found it interesting going to the blockade in Caledonia and placing it in the context of cultural genocide.

Another strength of the program was that we got off campus and went to the reserve. It would have been easy to stay at McMaster and talk about what happens on the reserve and never go. I appreciated that you made the opportunity available to travel to Six Nations – I think this was very important.

Finally I appreciated that you, Karen, gave us a role model of a physician who does not whole-heartedly buy into the conventional medical system. I have found it important to seek out physicians who are interested in healing, not just in medicine. And you, Karen, have given me such a role model.

Thanks so much for all your hard work.