



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Office of the Premier

June 11, 2008

Ms. Lorraine Michael, M.H.A.
N.D.P. Office
5th Floor, East Block
Confederation Building

Office of the Premier	
Doc. #	2008-27035
File #	53 409 004 001

Dear Ms. Michael:

I would like to indicate to you my sincere disappointment at your comments on the NTV Evening News Broadcast last evening (June 10, 2008). Your comments regarding testimony by my staff at the Commission of Inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing were startling to me; and the political nature of those comments were not only unfortunate but I would suggest did a disservice to those people who have been so terribly impacted by this issue.

First of all, it was very clear that you had not bothered to watch all of the testimony of that day. To insinuate that our office – and me in particular – only acts on an issue when it goes public is absolutely wrong and inaccurate. The issue was broadly in the public domain back in 2005. We called the inquiry when public confidence was shaken some two years later when it was clear that those with the authority to do so, were not handling the issue appropriately. You clearly have no idea what it is to work in this office and passing judgment without hearing all of the evidence, including my evidence, demonstrates that you seem incapable of not politicizing this most serious of issues.

To insinuate that I or my office is uncaring or unresponsive to the health care needs of this province or the people impacted by this terrible disease, is beneath contempt and personally and professionally insulting. You do not have a monopoly on caring for the patients who have been devastated by this issue. As you would have heard if you listened to the whole testimony, our office asked and were assured repeatedly that patients were being dealt with in a timely and appropriate fashion. That was always and remains today our number one priority. We relied upon health care professionals, which was entirely appropriate at the time.

I would have expected more from you than jumping on a political bandwagon on such a terribly serious issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danny Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D".

DANNY WILLIAMS, Q.C.
Premier