

George Tilley

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From: John Abbott [JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca]  
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2005 3:38 PM  
To: George Tilley  
Subject: Re: Laboratory Status

Thanks for this. Also, I emailed Bob Williams earlier today to let him know that Rob Ritter would be in contact with him for a briefing.

John G. Abbott  
Deputy Minister of Health & Community Services  
(709) 729-3125

>>> "George Tilley" <George.Tilley@hccsj.nl.ca> 7/25/2005 11:44:02 AM

>>> >>>

John,

Had a meeting Sunday morning with those involved, including an oncologist and a surgeon. We are clearly not at a point yet where we can be confident that we have a problem and if so, the extent of it. The physicians are feeling a little more comfortable based on the recent information provided, but more is needed to get to the bottom of this.

The Lab officials are currently:

- making contact with the manufacturer of the new system (Vantana) to see what information/research they have on hand about the old approach/technology, experiences elsewhere on conversion to the new system, sensitivity rates, etc. We also want to ensure that our new system is working properly so today we are sending old and new specimens to an outside centre which has the new technology to compare results.
- getting information from more centres in the country about their experiences. For example, in [REDACTED] we learned that they don't keep a log of their overall/annual positivity rates, and that they have also had conversions from negative to positive, but had not kept an eye to the frequency of these conversions. Question is whether this is something that is isolated to us or not?
- I learned that for the specimens that we recently retested and reported as converting to positive, we included in that sample those that originally reported as a weak positive. It would be expected that this would happen. What I am interested in are those that went from negative to positive. From the oncologist perspective, they don't distinguish between positive and weak positive.
- we have a lot of people trying to get more information. We will have to wait now for the results of the tests on the specimens that we will be sending out of Province, info from the new manufacturer and the experiences from elsewhere. It will take at least until the end of this week to get that done if not the week after. We are also awaiting the return of the results of the specimens from elsewhere in this Province, where we did the reporting but didn't have the interpretation results, in light of that being done by their local pathologists.

I'll keep you posted as soon as we get more information.

George

We

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George Tilley

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-----Original Message-----

From: John Abbott [mailto:JohnAbbott@gov.nl.ca]  
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2005 9:36 AM  
To: George Tilley  
Cc: John Rumboldt  
Subject: Re: FW: NLIS 4 - Government proceeds with two healthcare initiatives in Labrador

The 2 Labrador initiatives are focussed on supporting investments in new facilities. By copy of this e-mail, I'll ask John Rumboldt to send you the terms of reference for both reviews for your consideration.

P.S. Anything new on the ER/PR receptors issue. Minister is quite keen on this matter.

John G. Abbott  
Deputy Minister of Health & Community Services  
(709) 729-3125

>>> "George Tilley" <George.Tilley@hccsj.nl.ca> 7/25/2005 9:29 AM >>>

John, any idea how does this needs assessment compares to what we were planning to do on the Burin Peninsula? George

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-----Original Message-----

From: Jeannie House [mailto:JHouse@nlhba.nf.ca]  
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2005 2:16 PM  
To: Senior Staff; Boyd Rowe (E-mail); Dave Diamond (E-mail); George Tilley; Susan Gillam (E-mail); Alison Dower (E-mail); Barry Oake (E-mail); Deborah Thomas; Elizabeth Strange-Hollett; Heidi Staeben-Simmons (E-mail); Jennifer Deon (E-mail); Jim Hornell (E-mail); Kim Cheeks (E-mail); Lisa Browne (E-mail); Martha Muzychka (E-mail); Susan Bonnell  
Subject: FW: NLIS 4 - Government proceeds with two healthcare initiatives in Labrador

John Ottenheimer, Minister of Health and Community Services (HCS), and Larry Bradley, Board Chair, of the Labrador-Grenfell Regional Integrated Health Authority (L-G RIHA), today named the consultant selected to conduct two projects in Labrador.



The consulting firm James Torbert and Associates has been selected to carry out both a needs assessment and role study of health services and facility infrastructure for Labrador West as well as planning to move forward with a long term care (LTC) facility in Labrador East. Criteria for the projects were based on a review of strengths, abilities, depth of experience of team members, methodology, site commitment and cost.

"Proceeding with these two initiatives in Labrador will assist government in determining the appropriate environment for the delivery of services in Labrador," said Minister Ottenheimer. "These projects will assist us in identifying the best approach to deal with infrastructure needs."

"Government's investment will allow for an external assessment of current health services and infrastructure in Labrador West and long-term care needs in Labrador," said Mr. Bradley. "I look forward to hearing independent recommendations regarding action for future service delivery and infrastructure needs in both these areas."

The planning in Labrador East builds on government's commitment in Budget 2005 to upgrading and building LTC facilities as well as the Blueprint pledge to develop a strategy to improve LTC facilities throughout the province. This work will help meet the needs of seniors in Labrador and supports planning for our aging population.

Proceeding with the needs assessment and role study in Labrador West follows through on an announcement made by government at the 2005 Combined Councils Annual General Meeting.

"These investments confirm government's commitment to the people of Labrador," said Paul Shelley, Minister responsible for Labrador Affairs. "Our government recognizes the pivotal role of Labrador in the future of our province. Access to quality health services and proper infrastructure will improve the overall health and well-being of its people \* our most important resource."

A steering committee for each project is in place and comprises of representatives from the major partners. The steering committee will oversee the project and provide direction to the firm. Consultations with L-G RIHA, HCS and key stakeholders will be a major component of the firm's review.

It is anticipated that the final reports will be completed in October 2005.

Media contact:

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2:05 p.m.