

**Media – May, 2007**

## ER/PR MAY 15-27, 2007

**CBC RADIO CORNER BROOK MORNING SHOW 6-8AM Tuesday, May 15, 2007****CBC RADIO LABRADOR MORNING SHOW 6-8AM Tuesday, May 15, 2007****CBC RADIO ST JOHN'S MORNING SHOW 6-8AM Tuesday, May 15, 2007**

INACCURATE TESTING FOR CANCER PATIENTS: Court documents show that Eastern Health got many more medical test results wrong than it reported months ago. Last December Eastern Health announced some of the results of a review of all hormone receptor tests in this province, dating back to 1997. The test helps determine what treatment a patient receives after they've been diagnosed with breast cancer. Eastern Health said after the tests were redone in Ontario, treatment changed for more than 100 patients. But it wouldn't say how many of the tests came back with results that were different than the original tests. Now court documents obtained by CBC show that almost three times as many tests were wrong.

[Reporter "Mark Quinn"; "Geri Rodgers", filmmaker; "Peter Dawe", Canadian Cancer Society"; "Dr. Craig Alwright(sp?)", pathologist] AIRED: 7:12 DURATION:

4:00 REPORTER: DOROTHY KING

**CBC NATIONAL NEWS, THE CURRENT: May 15, 2007***Faulty Test Results – Patient*

Last summer we told you about mistakes that were made at a pathology lab at the largest hospital in Newfoundland and Labrador, run by the Eastern Regional Health Authority. The mistakes were severe and resulted in the mistreatment of dozens of cancer patients. In one case, after undergoing a double mastectomy and chemotherapy, a woman found out she didn't have breast cancer at all. And today, court documents obtained by CBC Radio, reveal just how widespread other initial errors were. At issue is a test for hormone receptors. A positive test means estrogen is feeding the cancer tumour, and so many women who test estrogen/progesterone receptor positive are given a hormone therapy called tamoxifen to stop the estrogen. Tests show women who take tamoxifen for five years have a reduction in second cancers.

After tissue samples from the Nfld lab were re-tested at Toronto's Mount Sinai hospital, the documents reveal that forty-two percent of the patients tested for estrogen/progesterone receptors had received the wrong results -- they got false negatives -- and this may have adversely affected their course of treatment.

Gerry Rogers is one of the women affected by the mistakes made at that Newfoundland pathology lab. She has portrayed her own fight with breast cancer in the award winning

Newsworld National Film Board feature called "My Left Breast", and is an advocate for women living with breast cancer. She joined us from our St. John's studio.

*Faulty Test Results – Association*

We asked the Eastern Health Integrated Regional Authority of Newfoundland and Labrador for an interview on this matter. But an official with the board says that no one can comment as the matter is before the courts. To shed some light on how pathology and laboratory medicine works in Canada, we were joined by Jagdish Butany. He is the President of the Canadian Association of Pathologists and we reached him this morning at his office in Toronto.

*Breast Cancer Tests—Bioethicist*

Philip Hebert knows that mistakes are part of pathology. But as a family doctor he must also treat patients with a devastating cancer diagnosis quickly and effectively. In addition to his practice, Dr. Hebert chairs the Research Ethics Board at Toronto's Sunnybrook Hospital and is author of Doing Right. A Practical Guide to Ethics for Physicians and Medical Trainees. He was in our Toronto Studio.

**ER/PR MAY 15-27, 2007****CBC RADIO NEWS AT 7:00AM Tuesday, May 15, 2007****CBC RADIO NEWS AT 8:00AM Tuesday, May 15, 2007**

MISDIAGNOSIS REPORTED: Court documents reveal that Eastern Health had many more medical tests results wrong than it reported months ago. [Reporter "Mark Quinn"; "Peter Dawe", Canadian Cancer Society; "Dr. Craig Alwright(sp?)", pathologist; "Geri Rodgers", cancer survivor] AIRED: 7:00 A.M. DURATION: 2:00 REPORTER: NANCY WALSH

FALSE TESTING FOR BREAST CANCER PATIENTS IN NL: Tomoxifin therapy is one of the most successful treatments for women diagnosed with breast cancer but hundreds of women in Nfld and Labrador were mistakenly denied this life saving treatment. ["Vic Adobia", reporter; "Geri Rodgers", patient; "Peter Dawe", Canadian Cancer Society; CBC National News 7:30] AIRED: 7:30 AM DURATION: 3:00 REPORTER: JUDY MADRIN

**VOCM RADIO OPEN LINE Tuesday, May 15, 2007**

TRAVEL FOR HEALTH CARE: "Marg" calling to talk about invasive by-pass surgery. She says that she didn't realize how far some of these patients had to travel to get this surgery, as people as far as Buchans and the Northern Peninsula have to travel sometimes 13 hours or more to St. John's for the surgery. AIRED: 11:27 AM DURATION: 03:00 REPORTER: RANDY SIMMS

**CBC RADIO ON THE GO AT 4:00 PM Tuesday, May 15, 2007**

CONCERN OVER INACCURATE TEST RESULTS: CBC has learned that hundreds of women in Nfld and Labrador who might have been eligible for a potentially lifesaving breast cancer treatment were denied the drug due to faulty test results. Tamoxifen blocks hormones that promote the growth of cancerous cells. Hormone receptor tests determine whether a woman is eligible for that treatment. But in that province we now know that at least one-third and possibly half of the negative tests between 1997 and 2005 were wrong. That means hundreds of women who could have benefited from the drug treatment didn't get it. "Geri Rodgers" is one of those women. "Ross Wiseman" is this province's minister of Health and Community Services. AIRED: 04:07 PM DURATION: 15:00 REPORTER: TED BLADES

ROSSITER GIVES HOUSE UPDATE: Mike Rossiter discusses the happenings in the House of Assembly today. Topics included the controversy with Eastern Health over false testing for cancer patients and Liberals super weekend. AIRED: 05:23 PM DURATION: 05:00 REPORTER: TED BLADES

**CBC RADIO EVENING NEWS AT 5:00PM Tuesday, May 15, 2007**

CONCERN ABOUT CANCER TESTS IN NL: Court documents reveal there are serious problems with treatment tests for breast cancer. ["Vic Adobia", reporter; CBC National News 4:30 P.M.] AIRED: 04:36 PM DURATION: 02:00 REPORTER: Marcia Williams

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ADDRESSING EASTERN HEALTH SCANDAL: The provincial government is scrambling to try to restore confidence in the health care system over a controversy involving the Eastern Health Care Corporation. ["Mike Rossiter", reporter; "Ross Wiseman", Health minister; "Lorraine Michael", NDP leader] AIRED: 05:01 PM DURATION: 02:00 REPORTER: JACINTA WALL

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**VOCM RADIO NEWS AT 5:30PM Tuesday, May 15, 2007**

GOVERNMENT REASSURES WOMEN: Government says women should be confident in the quality control measures put in place in light of the hundreds of false breast cancer test results discovered by Eastern Health. ["Jennifer Tulk", reporter; "Dwight Ball", Liberal Health critic; Health Minister "Ross Wiseman"] AIRED: 5:35 PM DURATION: 03:00 REPORTER: AUDREY WHELAN

**CBC TV HERE & NOW AT 6:00 PM Tuesday, May 15, 2007**

CANCER PATIENTS QUESTIONING EASTERN HEALTH: Many cancer patients in the province are questioning how reliable Eastern Health is. ["Mark Quinn", reporter; Geri Rodgers, cancer patient; "Peter Dawe", Canadian Cancer Society; "Dr. Craig Allred", pathologist; "Deanne Fleet", reporter; "Lorraine Michael", NDP leader; "Dwight Ball", Liberal Health critic; Dr. Cara Lang, Eastern Health; "Ross Wiseman", Health minister] AIRED: 06:00 PM DURATION: 06:00 REPORTER: COOPER/CROWE

**CBC RADIO EVENING NEWS AT 6:00PM Tuesday, May 15, 2007**

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ADDRESSING EASTERN HEALTH SCANDAL: The provincial government is scrambling to try to restore confidence in the health care system over a controversy involving the Eastern Health Care Corporation. ["Mike Rossiter", reporter; "Ross Wiseman", Health minister; "Lorraine Michael", NDP leader] AIRED: 06:01 PM DURATION: 02:00 REPORTER: JACINTA WALL

**NTV EVENING NEWS AT 6:00PM Tuesday, May 15, 2007**

CRITICISM OF EASTERN HEALTH: It's come to light that Eastern Health drastically under estimated a problem it had with breast cancer testing in December of 2005. ["Geri Rodgers", cancer patient; Health Minister "Ross Wiseman"; "Peter Dawe", Canadian Cancer Society] AIRED: 6:01 PM DURATION: 03:00 REPORTER: HUTTON/WISEMAN

**CABLE 9 OUT OF THE FOG Tuesday, May 15, 2007**

DAWE ON EASTERN HEALTH CONCERN: Roger speaks with Peter Dawe, executive director of the Canadian Cancer Society in NL about a concern over the false reports from breast cancer tests by Eastern Health. AIRED: 7:41 DURATION: 10:00 REPORTER: HOLMES/SAMPSON

## ER/PR MAY 15-27, 2007

**VOCM NIGHT LINE Tuesday, May 15, 2007**

EASTERN HEALTH WITHHELD CRITICAL INFORMATION: Host Preamble – The Minister of Health today told the House of Assembly that 40% of women had information about faulty breast tests withheld on legal advice. Faulty hormone receptor tests disqualified scores of women in Newfoundland and Labrador from receiving potentially life-saving treatment for breast cancer. The error rate for a controversial series of tests completed over an eight-year period is much higher than expected. AIRED: 8:24 DURATION: 01:00 REPORTER: LINDA SWAIN

IMPACTED BY FALSE DIAGNOSIS: "Minnie" is one of the women affected by the misdiagnosis. Over 300 women were affected. Many women made decisions that they would not have made. She had her second breast removed to prevent the cancer from coming back. It has been eight years and there is very little she can do. Eastern Health has made it worse. She still does not know what went wrong. It seems they were more interested in covering their own butts than saving women. She said she has had a number of issues with health care. She said she is disappointed with the three Conservative Members of Parliament from this province. She has lost her faith in the Conservative Party of Canada. AIRED: 8:25 DURATION: 07:00 REPORTER: LINDA SWAIN

DOCTOR WITHHELD DIAGNOSIS FOR MONTHS: "Rose Marie" is responding to the issue of Eastern Health Care not passing on details of false reports. She said that in May of 2005 she was tested for major headaches. She was told that nothing was found. It turns out that she had a brain aneurism. She was not told for months about it. She talked about her experience with health care. AIRED: 8:41 DURATION: 07:00 REPORTER: LINDA SWAIN

EASTERN HEALTH RUNNING FOR COVER: Filmmaker "Gerri Rodgers" talks about the way Eastern Health has handled to issue of false test results for breast cancer screening. She tried to get a hold of someone for 8 months. She went to John Ottenheimer and said if she didn't hear from someone in 24 hours, she would make a big fuss. Eastern Health finally called her and said they didn't call her because they didn't want her to worry. 43 percent of the test have come back that they were wrong. Her results were wrong. Newfoundland and Labrador had the highest rate for breast cancer fatality. She questions if the two are linked. Are the pathology labs to blame? Is there a possibility that there were false positives? AIRED: 11:07 DURATION: 09:00 REPORTER: LINDA SWAIN

## ER/PR MAY 15-27, 2007

**CTV NEWS WEBSITE: May 15, 2007 7:58 PM ET**

**CTV NATIONAL NEWS May 15, 2007**

*Affidavit: cancer patients given wrong treatment*

More than 300 breast cancer patients in Newfoundland and Labrador did not receive proper treatment because of incorrect test results, according to an affidavit filed in the province's Supreme Court.

In 2005, the Eastern Health Authority asked Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital to review 2,000 hormone receptor tests dating back to May 1997, after oncologists found conflicting results in breast tumour samples. According to the affidavit, signed by the authority's risk management consultant Heather Predham, 763 women were given the tests. Of that number, 317 received the wrong result.

Gerry Rogers was diagnosed with cancer in 1999 and lost both of her breasts. She is now one of 47 women suing pursuing a class-action lawsuit against the health authority because of the tests. "There are some women I know who are quite devastated," Rogers told NTV News on Tuesday. "What it has done is basically shaken their faith and trust in the medical system."

Hormone receptor tests determine if a patient is estrogen- and/or progesterone-positive, in which case they may benefit from hormone therapy like Tamoxifen. "There was a group of people out there whose treatment was going to change and they really needed to ensure that happened, and that needed to be

communicated and well understood," said Health Minister Ross Wiseman.

"I appreciate, as well, where they're coming from with respect to the litigation." The 47 women launched their lawsuit last year. Opposition health critic Dwight Ball accused the government of not doing enough to fix problems with the tests or informing the public.

"We think that the public had a right to know," he said. "And we see this government right now with Eastern Health putting the litigation process above the treatments that were necessary."

Peter Dawe, head of the province's Cancer Society, said hormone receptor tests are notoriously complicated. But he still found the number of incorrect results by the authority extremely worrying. "A 42 per cent error rate is almost like flipping a coin," he said.

The authority has refused to discuss the test results while the case is before the courts, but Dawe said the public should be educated about the findings. "Two years ago, we had people contacting us just hysterical -- I mean, literally panicking -- and we went through that process with dozens of people," he said.

*With a report from NTV News and files from The Canadian Press*

## ER/PR MAY 15-27, 2007

**CBC NEWS WEBSITE: May 16, 2007 | 9:51 AM NT***Minister defends Eastern Health*

The Newfoundland and Labrador government is scrambling to restore confidence in the provincial health-care system over a controversy involving Eastern Health. Eastern Health said in December that 763 breast cancer patients who had been given hormone receptor tests since 2005 could expect a 10 per cent error rate. The tests determine what kind of treatment for breast cancer a woman receives.

On Monday, CBC News revealed that 42 per cent of the test results, involving 317 patients, were wrong. Court documents show that Eastern Health knew in December that the margin of error was higher than was expected. "I understand and appreciate the dilemma they found themselves in and trying to balance the responsibility of the patients who needed change and the responsibility of protecting the interests of the company in the event of a litigation," Health Minister Ross Wiseman said in legislature.

The disclosure of the 317 inaccurate tests would have been more informative, said Wiseman. But he believes Eastern Health has learned its lesson and improved its hormone receptor testing program. "And we shouldn't see a repeat of what we saw last year," Wiseman said.

Wiseman said just before the December announcement, a statement of claim and an application for a class action lawsuit were filed on behalf of 40 of the 317 women whose tests results were inaccurate. Eastern Health decided to keep the full information about inaccurate tests quiet on the advice of its lawyers, he said. The health of women should have come before any potential lawsuit, said NDP Leader Lorraine Michael. "I think it's immoral. I think it's unethical. Certainly, my confidence in the system is shaken by it. If I were a woman dealing with breast cancer, I think I would not want to deal with our system here in Newfoundland and Labrador."

**CTV NEWS WEBSITE/ CANADA AM May 16, 2007 8:14 AM ET***Affidavit: cancer patients given wrong treatment*

More than 300 breast cancer patients in Newfoundland and Labrador did not receive proper treatment because of incorrect test results, according to an affidavit filed in the province's Supreme Court. In 2005, the Eastern Health Authority asked Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital to review 2,000 hormone receptor tests dating back to May 1997, after oncologists found conflicting results in breast tumour samples. According to the affidavit, signed by the authority's risk management consultant Heather Predham, 763 women were given the tests. Of that number, 317 received the wrong result.

Gerry Rogers was diagnosed with cancer in 1999 and lost both of her breasts. She is now one of 47 women pursuing a class-action lawsuit against the health authority because of the tests.

Hormone receptor tests determine if a patient is estrogen- and/or progesterone-positive, in which case they may benefit from hormone therapy like Tamoxifen. "I was appalled at what happened. I heard about the problem with the pathology through the media and any woman who's had breast cancer, that's how we heard about it," Rogers told CTV's Canada AM.

Rogers indicated she had tried to contact health authorities for over eight months and was not provided with any information regarding her condition through this period. Rogers suggested that doctors were not informed either as her own physician was asking her for information on the matter. "The other thing that was kind of alarming was in Newfoundland and Labrador, we have the highest mortality rate for women with breast cancer. Is that linked?" Rogers said.

The 47 women launched their lawsuit last year.

Opposition health critic Dwight Ball accused the government of not doing enough to fix problems with the tests or informing the public. "We think that the public had a right to know," he said. "And we see this government right now with Eastern Health putting the litigation process above the treatments that were necessary."

Peter Dawe of the Canadian Cancer Society, said hormone receptor tests are notoriously complicated. But he still found the number of incorrect results by the authority extremely worrying. Dawe feels the lawsuit should prompt a wider investigation into how breast cancer testing is handled. "I think the pressure has to be on the system in each jurisdiction to say this is a problem," Dawe told CTV's Canada AM. "There is going to be a certain error rate in this particular test, that's my understanding. Is everything being done to keep that a bare minimum?"

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**GLOBE AND MAIL: May 16, 2007**

*Faulty tests cost women critical cancer treatment, court documents say*

By: TARA BRAUTIGAM

ST. JOHN'S -- More than 300 women in Newfoundland and Labrador were disqualified from receiving critically important treatment for breast cancer because of a faulty test, according to documents filed in the province's Supreme Court.

In 2005, the province's Eastern Health Authority arranged for Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto to redo more than 2,000 hormone receptor tests dating back to May, 1997, after oncologists discovered inconsistent results in breast tumour samples.

Of 763 patients who were given the tests, Mount Sinai found that 317 of them had the wrong results, according to a sworn affidavit signed in February by Heather Predham, a risk management consultant with the health authority.

Ms. Predham's affidavit states that 176 of the patients whose tests were originally reported to be negative have since died, but it's not clear whether any of their families are part of the class-action suit.

The tests are considered crucial in assessing a breast cancer patient's treatment because if they are found to be estrogen- and/or progesterone-positive, they may respond to hormone therapy such as Tamoxifen.

"Many of these women ... were deprived, or most of them probably, of this very useful therapy," said lawyer Ches Crosbie, who represents 47 of about 80 Newfoundland women in a class-action lawsuit that was filed against the health authority last year.

"These are all people we're talking about, not just numbers."

Officials with Eastern Health didn't return calls yesterday, but Health Minister Ross Wiseman

said Newfoundland's health-care system has improved since the errors were found.

"Clearly what happened then was an unfortunate circumstance, and as a result of that, the hospitals stopped doing these tests for a while until they were able to make a wholesale change in how they did things," Mr. Wiseman said in an interview.

There is now better equipment and laboratory staff dedicated to this type of testing to ensure that the mistakes uncovered won't happen again, he said.

Mr. Crosbie said he suspects the problem originated at the lab. "We can say that they didn't happen before they got to the lab because if something had occurred between the operating room and the lab to spoil the specimen - an absence of refrigeration or something like that - then the reference lab at Mount Sinai in Toronto wouldn't have been able to do a reclassification of these specimens from negative to positive," he said.

"The error had to happen at what's called the analytic stage in the lab."

Peter Dawe, executive director of the Newfoundland division of the Canadian Cancer Society, agreed that the province's health-care system has taken major steps to improve, but criticized the government's delay in relaying the information.

"Women should've been approached a lot sooner about this issue," Mr. Dawe said.

Mr. Crosbie will appear in a St. John's court next week to argue for certification of the class action. A decision is expected within several months

**VOCM RADIO NEWS AT 7:45AM Wednesday, May 16, 2007**

INACCURATE TEST RESULTS WITHHELD: Health Minister "Ross Wiseman" says, on the advice of legal council, Eastern Health withheld the fact that over 40 percent of some 300 breast cancer screening tests conducted two years ago were inaccurate. [Dwight Ball, Opposition Critic]

AIRED: 7:52 DURATION: 1:20 REPORTER: GERRY PHELAN/VINCE GALLANT

ER/PR MAY 15-27, 2007

THE TELEGRAM: May 16, 2007

HEALTH/JUSTICE

# Mistakes will drive class action: lawyer

*Breast cancer patients given wrong results*

By ROSE GILLINGHAM

THE TELEGRAM

Crosbie believes the numbers speak for themselves. The high percentage of inaccurate results from breast cancer testing in this province could be enough to move forward a class-action lawsuit against Eastern Health, the regional healthcare authority, he said.

"This case could, quite possibly, be made on the statistics alone," said Crosbie, the lawyer representing the group of women in a suit which has been filed in Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador.

"We don't need to know exactly what went wrong on one level to prove there was a breach of standard care."

Arguments in the class-action lawsuit will be heard May 23-25.

The women claimed to have been misdiagnosed during the period from 1997 to 2005.

According to Crosbie's website, the lawsuit alleges "a failure of quality control by the Eastern Regional Integrated Health Authority in the testing of breast cancer tissue specimens for estrogen and progesterone hormone receptivity."

Depending on whether the women were diagnosed as positive or negative, the treatment would either be chemotherapy or Tamoxifen.

Crosbie said of the 2,709 women diagnosed with breast cancer, 884 received negative results for their tumor being stimulated by hormones (30.4 per cent). A total of 366 were false negatives.

Of the 884 negatives, about 41 per cent were false negatives.

Overall, of the 2,709 tests completed, 16.5 per cent received incorrect results.

"When the error rate — the false-negative rate — is as high as what we're seeing, it's difficult to envision a justification being put forward," Crosbie said.

"It's difficult to see how the (authority) can explain this rate of error as consistent with due care."

Representatives of Eastern Health did not return The Telegram's phone calls Tuesday.

Crosbie said statistically, the expectations are that 25 per cent would be diagnosed as negative, with 75 per cent positive.

"But throughout this period," Crosbie said, "they had as low as under 60 per cent being positive."

Crosbie said of the 366 who received false initial results, the majority of them did not receive Tamoxifen or else received it later than they would have.

He said there is also a group of women who received chemotherapy because they were classified as being negative, which likely led them to decide to have that treatment.

"There were women who received chemotherapy and shouldn't have," said Crosbie.

"Beyond that, there will be a lot of women who were diagnosed with breast cancer throughout this period — and were talking 2,000 to 3,000 — whose faith in the system would have been badly shaken."

Crosbie said the statistics should have been checked on a monthly basis as a quality control measure, but there is no evidence it was done.

"So, what's it going to achieve? Hopefully it will tighten up procedures at Eastern Health ... which is expected to conform to the highest standards in the country," he said. "People have to know that when they put trust in (a hospital) they're getting what they're expecting to get, what the taxpayers came to get."

Gerry Rogers of St. John's — one of the women involved in the class action — was unhappy with how Eastern Health handled the situation.

"They did not communicate with us and it was run, hide and duck for cover," she said. "They should have treated us with care and compassion. I want an apology and some kind of explanation of how this could have happened."

She believes the problems with breast cancer screening is an example of the strain on this province's health-care system.

"Hopefully, this will be a bit of a wake-up call for all of us in terms of what's happening with our health-care system," said Rogers, who said more resources are needed.

"It's falling more and more in disrepair. Doctors are doing the best they can, but unless more money is put in, it's going to continue to suffer."

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ER/PR MAY 15-27, 2007

## Minister questions information flow

*Public confidence will be restored  
in breast cancer screening process, he says*

By TERRY ROBERTS  
THE TELEGRAM

**H**ealth Minister Ross Wiseman says Eastern Health should have disclosed more information last December following a review and retesting of breast tissue samples.

Court documents reveal the error rate for hormone receptor tests conducted at the Health Sciences Centre in St. John's between 1997 and 2005 was much higher than anticipated.

More than 900 samples were retested at a Toronto hospital.

Eastern Health confirmed last year that women were given the wrong results, but it said only 117 required a change in medical treatment.

In most cases, that meant a prescription of a drug called Tamoxifen, which is thought to block the hormones that promote cancerous cell growth.

During a December briefing for the media, Eastern Health officials zeroed in on the patients who required a change in treatment.

Eastern Health withheld details about how many tests changed from negative to positive because it was facing a class action lawsuit.

Wiseman, during a scrum with reporters Tuesday afternoon, suggested the full information should have been disclosed.

"In looking at what they shared at that time, if you measure it against what we would have considered to be more open and more transparent, the other figure of (more than 300) would have been disclosed at that particular time as well," Wiseman stated.

The Liberal Opposition said the situation has shaken public confidence in Eastern Health.

Opposition Health critic Dwight Ball said he is "very disturbed and concerned" and is calling for the government to launch a thorough investigation. He believes the government and Eastern Health put the threat of litigation above the needs of patients.

"If this was a family member of mine, I would not be confident given the news I've heard today," Ball said. "The fact is there was

a class-action lawsuit here and as a result of an affidavit that was filed, we find out today these tests were wrong, 42 per cent actually."

NDP Leader Lorraine Micheal also expressed concerns.

"My confidence is shaken by this," she stated.

Wiseman said there have been high-level discussions about how such a situation should be handled in the future.

But, in this case, he said full disclosure would have been more appropriate.

He added, however, that he understands why the health authority took the action it did.

"I understand and appreciate the dilemma they found themselves in trying to balance their responsibility to the patients who needed a change (in treatment) and their responsibility to protecting the interests of the organization in the event of a litigation," Wiseman said.

The faulty tests meant dozens of women did not receive critical treatment in a timely fashion, while many others started out on a treatment regime that wasn't appropriate.

Some 40-plus women are suing Eastern Health.

Wiseman said it's been a very unfortunate circumstance and many women and their families have endured a tremendous amount of stress.

He noted that Eastern Health has learned a great deal from the situation, both from the perspective of proper communications and, more importantly, in improving the quality of care it provides.

Wiseman offered assurances Tuesday that sweeping changes have been made since the testing process resumed in February.

"I think the people of the province should have confidence that we now have a real focus in ensuring that quality is complied with and there's a monitoring mechanism in place to ensure that quality exists, which didn't exist before."

"We shouldn't see a repeat of what we saw last year," Wiseman said.

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**VOCM RADIO NEWS AT 1:00PM Wednesday, May 16, 2007**

EASTERN HEALTH'S FAULTY TESTING: Legal action is in the works after more than 300 women in NL were denied crucial treatment for breast cancer. [“Gerry Rogers”, Cancer patient; “Ches Crosbie”, Lawyer] AIRED: 1:14 PM DURATION: 01:15 REPORTER: PHELAN/GALLANT

**CBC RADIO ON THE GO AT 4:00 PM Wednesday, May 16, 2007**

ROSSITER GIVES HOUSE UPDATE: Mike Rossiter discusses the happenings in the House of Assembly today. Topics included the federal budget passing second reading in the House of Commons and a controversy between MP Fabian Manning and Paul Oram and the controversy over inaccurate breast cancer testing at Eastern Health. AIRED: 05:23 PM DURATION: 05:00 REPORTER: TED BLADES

**VOCM BACKTALK Wednesday, May 16, 2007**

EASTERN HEALTH'S FAULTY TESTING: Host preamble. There's legal action now in the works after over 300 women in the province were denied treatment for breast cancer. Court documents show faulty testing is to blame. The problem is popping up in the House of Assembly now via concerns raised by MHA Dwight Ball. AIRED: 2:01 PM DURATION: 04:00 REPORTER: RANDY SIMMS

**NTV EVENING NEWS AT 6:00PM Wednesday, May 16, 2007**

REVELATIONS ABOUT FAULTY BREAST CANCER SCREENINGS: There were more revelations about the faulty breast cancer screenings today. [NDP Leader “Lorraine Michael”; Health Minister “Ross Wiseman”; “Dwight Ball”, Liberal Health critic] AIRED: 6:19 PM DURATION: 02:00 REPORTER: HUTTON/WISEMAN

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**VOCM NIGHT LINE Wednesday, May 16, 2007**

BREAST CANCER SCREENING ISSUE: Host Preamble - The provincial government knew for over half a year that more than 300 women did not receive the proper treatment for their breast cancer because of faulty testing. They did not inform the public. Ross Wiseman the Health Minister says it was on the advice of legal counsel. Today Justice Minister Tom Osborne is denying accusations. Lorraine Michael questioned the government today in the House of Assembly. AIRED: 8:07 DURATION: 01:30 REPORTER: LINDA SWAIN

DISGUSTED WITH HEALTH MINISTER'S COMMENTS: "Ron" says he was in the House of Assembly toady. He talks about the breast screening results that were not done properly. He was appalled by the Minister of Health's comments. Is there a cover-up? He talks about Lorraine Michael's reaction to the question she asked in the House. The Minister has put pending litigation above the lives of these women. He was on a Health Board in the past. He calls for the Health Ministers resignation. Tom Osborne was the minister at the time. AIRED: 8:41 DURATION: 06:00 REPORTER: LINDA SWAIN

PARSONS ON BREAST SCREENING ISSUE: "Kelvin Parsons" calling about the breast screening issue. He called on the Health Minister for a judicial inquiry. He talks about the minister's comments. 176 women have died who were affected by these results. These families need answers. He says a judicial inquiry is a simple process. He says the lamer inquiry was well worth it. The proper treatment for these women was delayed. You can't put a value on finding out what happened. AIRED: 9:07 DURATION: 07:00 REPORTER: LINDA SWAIN

FALSE TEST RESULTS: "Patricia" went from zero negative to 70% positive. She was told her lymph nodes were free but treated it aggressively. She was told that the receptors were negative. She was lucky that she moved forward with the mastectomy. Had she elected to only having a lumpectomy it might have been fatal. She related stories of friends she met when being treated who were diagnosed wrong. She is upset with the way Eastern Health and the Province handled this. She is one of the 40 people involved in the class action suit. She wants answers about who did the tests and how this could have happened. She wants an inquiry into the affair. She says someone has to be help accountable for this. AIRED: 10:26 DURATION: 05:00 REPORTER: LINDA SWAIN

DEMANDS A PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO THE MISDIAGNOSIS: "Lorraine" says she was diagnosed in 2003 with breast cancer. She had the operation in 2004 followed with months of therapy. She missed a whole year of treatment due to the misdiagnosis. She now wonders if she needed to go through the months of chemotherapy. She was very worried and could get no answers from Eastern Health. She accuses them of a cover-up and is calling for an inquiry. AIRED: 10:42 DURATION: 05:00 REPORTER: LINDA SWAIN

FALSE DIAGNOSIS: "Lorraine Michael", Leader of The NDP, says she spoke about the answers she received in the House of Assembly regarding the mortality rate of the 317 women who had the false negativity testing. 176 had died. This was a big wake up call. We have to ensure that this never happens again. We can not say that all 176 died because they did not get the proper test results. The rights of the patient have to come first. If Eastern Health was legally exposed, so be it. She said there needs to be an inquiry. AIRED: 11:12 DURATION: 06:00 REPORTER: LINDA SWAIN

## ER/PR MAY 15-27, 2007

**GLOBE AND MAIL ONLINE: May 17, 2007***Newfoundland sat on news of faulty cancer tests*

St. John's -- The Newfoundland government was aware for more than half a year that 300-plus breast cancer patients didn't receive potentially life-saving treatment because of faulty tests, but didn't tell the public, the legislature was told yesterday. The admission came from a Tory cabinet minister as the province faced a barrage of questions about when it knew the magnitude of the problem.

"I was advised, I think it was in November or December of last year, of the severity of the number of cases," said Justice Minister Tom Osborne, who served as health minister at the time. In 2005, the province's Eastern Health Authority arranged for Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto to redo more than 2,000 hormone receptor tests dating back to May, 1997, after oncologists discovered inconsistent results in tumour samples.

**THE TELEGRAM: May 17, 2007**

POLITICS/HEALTH

# Province won't commit to breast cancer inquiry

By TERRY ROBERTS

THE TELEGRAM

The provincial government sidestepped questions Wednesday about whether it will launch a judicial inquiry into the handling of a review and retesting of breast cancer tissue samples by Eastern Health.

Some 40-plus women have launched a class-action lawsuit against the regional health authority over the high rate of misdiagnosis between 1997 and 2005.

When asked if the province will launch an inquiry, Justice Minister Tom Osborne said the courts will make a ruling on the "actions or inactions" of Eastern Health.

## Refuted accusations

He also dismissed accusations by the Opposition Liberals about a decision in December by Eastern Health officials to withhold some information about the retesting from the public because of the threat of legal action.

The information was made public on Tuesday following the release of an affidavit.

"This government certainly does not put litigation or legal issues ahead of the health of individuals," Osborne said in the House of Assembly.

Opposition justice critic Kelvin Parsons said an inquiry should be held to get to the bottom of the "travesty" and ensure "those persons responsible are held accountable."

Some 939 breast tissue samples were sent to a Toronto hospital in July 2005 for retesting after concerns were raised about the quality of testing at the Health Sciences Centre.

Of those, 176 patients died before the results of the new tests were known, Health Minister Ross Wiseman confirmed Wednesday.

NDP Leader Lorraine Michael said she was "shocked" by the number.

"That answer has given me a cold shiver," Michael stated in the House.

Michael said Eastern Health has not con-

firmed whether any of the patients mistakenly denied hormone treatment had died or were needlessly given mastectomies when they could have been treated with drugs such as Tamoxifen.

Of the 763 patients who are still alive, more than 300 were initially given the wrong test results for the hormone receptor test.

The test determines what kind of treatment a woman should receive for breast cancer.

Testing at the Health Sciences Centre was suspended and a new centre of excellence opened in February.

## Error rate higher than thought

In December, Eastern Health said the error rate would be roughly 10 per cent.

But according to court documents uncovered this week by CBC News, it turned out to be much higher — 40-plus per cent.

Liberal health critic Dwight Ball condemned the government over the decision to withhold the information.

"There is a price, I guess, that this government puts on the lives of women in our province," Ball said.

His comment drew sneers from government members.

"This is a significant issue with tremendous impact on many families and women in this province. To try to play politics with it, I guess, speaks to the credibility of the members who are raising it in that fashion. It speaks to the depths they will reach to try to play cheap politics in this province," said Wiseman.

Wiseman echoed earlier comments that great strides have been taken to ensure that such mistakes are not repeated.

He also welcomed a suggestion by Michael that the province work with other jurisdictions to establish a national standard for breast cancer screening.

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**ER/PR MAY 15-27, 2007****VOCM WEBSITE: May 17, 2007 9:54:48 AM***Questions Over Breast Screening*

The controversy over faulty tests for breast cancer is stirring some emotional debate, and what some call numbing revelations. In 2005, more than 2,000 hormone receptor tests dating back to May 1997 were redone after oncologists discovered inconsistent results in breast tumour samples. According to affidavits, of 763 patients who were given the tests and are still alive, 317 of them had the wrong results.

NDP Leader Lorraine Michael questioned Health Minister Ross Wiseman. Wiseman says of the 939 re-tests, 176 women died before receiving the new test results. It's unclear how many of the 176 women had a false diagnosis or mis-treatment as a result of the inaccurate testing. The issue dominated

Question Period yesterday and what followed was an emotional debate, as Liberal MHA Dwight Ball asked Wiseman how many women are still awaiting test results. The minister says it's irresponsible to suggest there are still women awaiting test results today.

Justice Minister Tom Osborne, who served as health minister at the time he was told of the problem, says he was made aware of the severity of the number of cases in November or December. Osborne declined to answer why the government sat on the information so long, saying he is constrained due to a current class-action lawsuit against a provincial health authority. But he denied accusations that the government was putting the concerns of pending litigation ahead of the public interest.

**CBC WEBSITE: May 17, 2007 | 7:42 AM NT***Opposition calls for judicial probe into breast cancer testing: 'Courts will make a ruling,' justice minister says*

Opposition parties have called for a judicial inquiry to uncover how inaccurate pathology tests affected hundreds of Newfoundland and Labrador breast cancer patients.

In an at times emotional debate, NDP Leader Lorraine Michael was visibly shaken as she spoke to revelations that faulty tests meant 317 women had been excluded from consideration for drug therapies like Tamoxifen.

"I just have to say that answer has given me a cold shiver," said Michael, responding to Health Minister Ross Wiseman's statement that of a group of 939 patients to be retested, 176 had died.

"I cannot tell you what is happening to me at this moment with that answer ... It is shocking."

Michael and Liberal party critics questioned the government again Wednesday over the Eastern Health regional authority's handling of the pathology retesting, which is the subject of a pending class action lawsuit.

Opposition house leader Kelvin Parsons argued the government is "putting litigation costs and concerns ahead of the people again" by not probing further on the pathology issue.

Parsons said a judicial inquiry would "get to the bottom of this travesty and hold those persons responsible accountable."

"This government certainly does not put litigation or legal issues ahead of the health of individuals ... We take this issue very, very seriously," Justice Minister Tom Osborne said. Osborne told the legislature that a judicial inquiry is not necessary, and that "the courts will make a ruling based on the actions or the inactions of Eastern Health."

Eastern Health disclosed in 2005 that it had had erroneous results for hundreds of samples of breast cancer patients, dating back as far as 1997. The hormone receptor test indicates whether a patient is a candidate for a treatment like Tamoxifen.

An affidavit filed for Eastern Health, as reported by CBC News earlier this week, showed that the error rate for hormone tests was about 42 per cent, or significantly higher than reported earlier.

Of the 317 patients excluded through faulty hormone receptor tests, 104 patients required a change in treatment, with most being put on Tamoxifen.

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**CBC RADIO NEWS AT 7:00AM Thursday, May 17, 2007**

**CBC RADIO NEWS AT 8:00AM Thursday, May 17, 2007**

QUESTIONS SURROUNDING TESTS: The opposition parties are calling for a judicial inquiry into what went wrong with medical tests at Eastern Health. [Reporter "Mike Rossiter"; NDP Leader "Lorraine Michael"; Opposition House Leader "Kelvin Parsons"; Justice Minister "Tom Osborne"] AIRED: 7:03 A.M. DURATION: 1:30 REPORTER: NANCY WALSH

**VOCM RADIO NEWS AT 7:45AM Thursday, May 17, 2007**

CONTROVERSY CONTINUES OVER FAULTY TESTS: The controversy over faulty tests for breast cancer is stirring some emotional debate and what some call numbing revelations. ["Lorraine Michael", NDP Leader; "Ross Wiseman", Health Minister; "Dwight Ball"] AIRED: 7:45 DURATION: 2:30 REPORTER: GERRY PHELAN/VINCE GALLANT

**CFCB RADIO NEWS AT 8:00AM Thursday, May 17, 2007**

CONTROVERSY CONTINUES OVER FAULTY TESTS: The controversy over faulty tests for breast cancer is stirring some emotional debate and what some call numbing revelations. ["Lorraine Michael", NDP Leader; "Ross Wiseman", Health Minister; "Dwight Ball"] AIRED: 8:00 DURATION: 2:30 REPORTER: CHRIS GREENE

**VOCM RADIO OPEN LINE Thursday, May 17, 2007**

EASTERN HEALTH CONTROVERSY: Host preamble. There is a great deal of controversy being built up over these faulty tests for breast cancer. Some have described it as numbing revelations. NDP Leader Lorraine Michael questioned Health Minister Ross Wiseman about the topic yesterday in the House of Assembly, and she said his answer gave her cold shivers. The issue took control of question period, and brought about an emotional debate. Justice Minister Tom Osborne was told of this problem and says he was made aware of the severity of the number of cases in November or December of that year. Question of the day: should there be a full inquiry into what went wrong here, how it was corrected, how the system can be improved, even beyond what corrections have been made? AIRED: 9:02 AM DURATION: 03:00 REPORTER: RANDY SIMMS

JONES ON EASTERN HEALTH CONTROVERSY Cartwright - L'Anse au Clair "Yvonne Jones" calling to talk about the breast cancer controversy and the receptor testing that was done. She says it is unbelievable that this information goes back so far and that the truth is now just coming to light. She talks about the lawsuit that is surrounding the issue. She says Eastern Health was not quick to respond to the situation because of fear of litigation, and government is in the same position. She wants to know why a health corporation or any government department should take the information and hide it from the public. She thinks Eastern Health should be held accountable here, and that it's the government's responsibility to do so. She says a full inquiry into the situation needs to take place. She says this is as big as any industrial disaster we've had in this province. AIRED: 10:21 AM DURATION: 12:00 REPORTER: RANDY SIMMS

EASTERN HEALTH CONTROVERSY / FEDERAL POLITICS / TRUTH AND CONFIDENCE: "Kevin" usually takes issue with what Yvonne Jones has to say, but today he agrees with her. He says he can't see how a class action lawsuit can go ahead without all the facts coming out and those accountable taken to task. He thinks there needs to be a full inquiry into and an examination of the situation. AIRED: 10:47 AM DURATION: 07:00 REPORTER: RANDY SIMMS

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**CBC RADIO NEWS AT 12:30PM Thursday, May 17, 2007**

EASTERN HEALTH AFFIDAVIT REVEALED: There's more information today about the inaccurate tests results given to some women in the province who had breast cancer. New court documents reveal how many of the women who died were given the inaccurate results.  
AIRED: 12:30 PM DURATION: 01:00 REPORTER: JACINTA WALL

**VOCM NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR TODAY AT 1:30 PM Thursday, May 17, 2007**

THE VOICE: Should there be a public inquiry into the breast cancer screening controversy?  
Why or why not? ["Various"] AIRED: 1:36 DURATION: 3:45 REPORTER: GERRY PHELAN/AUDREY WHELAN

**CBC RADIO ON THE GO AT 4:00 PM Thursday, May 17, 2007**

EMAIL/TALK BACK CALLER ABOUT FALSE TESTS BY EASTERN HEALTH: As people learned this week hundreds of women in Nfld and Labrador missed out on a potentially lifesaving breast cancer treatment because of faulty test results. Hormone receptor tests determine whether a woman is eligible for treatment with a drug called Tamoxifen. But between 1997 and 2005 at least a third of the tests were read incorrectly. Hundreds of women who could have benefited from Tamoxifen didn't get it. Ted reads an email from Boyd Legge in Mount Pearl. ["Minnie Hoyles", cancer victim, Talk Back caller] AIRED: 04:40 PM DURATION: 03:00 REPORTER: TED BLADES

QUINN REPORTS ON DEATHS OF CANCER PATIENTS: Reporter Mark Quinn brings some new information about the women who died and it's based on some new court documents. ["NDP Leader Lorraine Michael"] AIRED: 04:43 PM DURATION: 04:00 REPORTER: TED BLADES

ROSSITER GIVES HOUSE UPDATE: Mike Rossiter discusses the happenings in the House of Assembly today. Topics included the controversy over inaccurate breast cancer testing at Eastern Health. AIRED: 05:24 PM DURATION: 05:00 REPORTER: TED BLADES

**VOCM BACKTALK Thursday, May 17, 2007**

EASTERN HEALTH CONTROVERSY: Host preamble. A top medical examiner in the province has revealed that 3 dozen women who received faulty breast cancer tests have died. These patients received false negatives and did not receive hormone therapy. Linda asks if there should be a public inquiry into the breast cancer screening controversy. 88 percent responded yes to that question. We're starting to hear now from women who have been directly affected by this, and we won't be hearing from 36 women because they already passed on. AIRED: 2:00 PM DURATION: 04:00 REPORTER: LINDA SWAIN

BREAST CANCER SCREENING "Kay" talks about the breast screening issue.

CROSBIE ON CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT: "Ches Crosbie" is the lawyer representing the women who were received false negatives for breast cancer hormone therapy in the class action law suit against Eastern Health. He explains the numbers and talks about the women who died of breast cancer after being falsely tested. He says that he will be seeking financial compensation. He says his clients would also like to see that this sort of thing would not happen in the future, and that the truth of the matter is fully revealed. He says he doesn't want to wade into the politics of it all. He talks about the possibility of an inquiry into the situation. AIRED: 3:40 PM DURATION: 05:00 REPORTER: LINDA SWAIN

**ER/PR MAY 15-27, 2007****CBC RADIO EVENING NEWS AT 5:00PM Thursday, May 17, 2007**

CALL FOR INQUIRY INTO INACCURATE TEST RESULTS: There are calls today for a closer look into how women with breast cancer were given inaccurate test results. ["Mark Quinn", reporter; "NDP Leader Lorraine Michael"; "Mike Rossiter", reporter; "Premier Danny Williams"; Health Minister "Ross Wiseman"] AIRED: 05:01 PM DURATION: 03:00 REPORTER: JACINTA WALL

**VOCM RADIO NEWS AT 5:30PM Thursday, May 17, 2007**

GOVERNMENT PREPARED TO LAUNCH INQUIRY: Government says they are prepared to launch some kind of inquiry into the false breast cancer results given to women in this province dating back to 1997. ["Jennifer Tulk", reporter; Opposition House Leader "Kelvin Parsons"; Premier "Danny Williams"] AIRED: 5:30 PM DURATION: 02:00 REPORTER: AUDREY WHELAN

CROSBIE LOOKING FOR MORE THAN FINANCIAL COMPENSATION: The lawyer for a number of women who have launched a class action lawsuit against Eastern Health says his clients are looking for more than just financial compensation. ["Ches Crosbie", lawyer; VOCM Back Talk with Linda Swain] AIRED: 5:32 PM DURATION: 01:00 REPORTER: AUDREY WHELAN

**CBC TV HERE & NOW AT 6:00 PM Thursday, May 17, 2007**

GOVERNMENT PROMISES TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF FALSE TESTING: There's new information tonight about the false cancer treatment tests. ["Chris O'Neill-Yates", reporter; Premier "Danny Williams"; NDP Leader "Lorraine Michael"; "Ches Crosbie", lawyer; "Ross Wiseman", Health minister; "Kelvin Parsons", Liberal MHA] AIRED: 06:04 PM DURATION: 02:00 REPORTER: COOPER/CROWE

THE PANEL: Debbie is joined by panelists "David Cochrane" and "Randy Simms". [Inaccurate juror list at Sean Buckingham trial; false positive cancer tests; job creation for students; MP Loyola Hearn] AIRED: 06:32 PM DURATION: 05:00 REPORTER: COOPER/CROWE

**CBC RADIO EVENING NEWS AT 6:00PM Thursday, May 17, 2007**

CALL FOR INQUIRY INTO INACCURATE TEST RESULTS: There are calls today for a closer look into how women with breast cancer were given inaccurate test results. ["Mark Quinn", reporter; "NDP Leader Lorraine Michael"; "Mike Rossiter", reporter; "Premier Danny Williams"; Health Minister "Ross Wiseman"] AIRED: 06:01 PM DURATION: 03:00 REPORTER: JACINTA WALL

**NTV EVENING NEWS AT 6:00PM Thursday, May 17, 2007**

ANOTHER DAY OF REVELATION: It was another day of revelation of the breast cancer situation. ["Michael Connors", reporter; "NDP Leader Lorraine Michael"; Premier "Danny Williams"; Health Minister "Ross Wiseman"] AIRED: 6:01 PM DURATION: 03:00 REPORTER: HUTTON/WISEMAN

## ER/PR MAY 15-27, 2007

**VOCM NIGHT LINE Thursday, May 17, 2007**

PUBLIC CONFIDENCE MUST BE RESTORED: Host Preamble - Eastern Health is holding a public briefing tomorrow at 12:30 to discuss breast cancer screening. The controversy over faulty tests for breast cancer is stirring some emotional debate and what some call numbing revelations. In 2005, more than 2,000 hormone receptor tests dating back to May 1997 were redone after oncologists discovered inconsistent results in breast tumour samples. Details are coming out daily. Government says it is prepared to launch some type of inquiry. VOCM question of the day saw an overwhelming number of people vote in favour of a public inquiry. Chess Crosbie is representing a large number of women in a civil suite against Eastern Health. He says it is not about the money. In the end many of the women will have died. It is about making sure it never happens again. AIRED: 8:06 DURATION: 04:00 REPORTER: LINDA SWAIN

BREAST CANCER SCREENING ISSUE: "Minnie" commenting on what Earle had to say. She talks about the request for a judicial inquiry into the breast cancer issue. She asks if it would happen the same time as the class action she is involved in. She thinks there should be a judicial inquiry. She knew some of the women who died. This has to do with problems in the lab.

AIRED: 9:53 DURATION: 05:00 REPORTER: LINDA SWAIN

BREAST CANCER SCREENING CONTROVERSY: "Ross Wiseman", Minister of Health, calling about the breast cancer controversy. The Premier wants to understand what happened here. Some of the questions asked by the opposition were constructive but some have caused undue anxiety. Eastern Health is trying to provide clarity to the situation. It is critical the public have the information. 176 people died before receiving their second test results. They will be undertaking a review into what happened here. Host asks how long would it have taken for this information to come out if it hadn't come out the way it did. Minister says people affected have been contacted. Eastern Health has put in a new quality control mechanism. Host asks about a judicial inquiry and he says they are looking into a review process. AIRED: 10:07 DURATION: 13:00 REPORTER: LINDA SWAIN

BREAST CANCER SCREENING CONTROVERSY: "Peter" calling from Corner Brook says the minister of Health's comment didn't make him feel very confident. He didn't mention a judicial inquiry he used the word review. A judicial inquiry removes politics from the inquiry. The lawyer who gave them the advice should be given their walking papers. How could you go with anything besides a judicial review? The lab testing doesn't have a very good track record. The public confidence needs to be restored. AIRED: 10:33 DURATION: 00:00 REPORTER: LINDA SWAIN

GOVERNMENT NEEDS EQUIPMENT: "Gerry" says pointing fingers at doctors and technicians for this mess at Eastern Health is not fair. He says we need better equipment for people to work with. He says government should allow a non-profit private facility. He says his proposal would not affect the Canada Health Act or the transfer of health dollars from Ottawa. He has made the pitch to the province but they say no because it would be in contravention of the Canada Health Act. AIRED: 10:49 DURATION: 07:00 REPORTER: LINDA SWAIN

CONFIDENCE NEEDS TO BE RESTORED: "Rod" says the Minister of Health does not seem to get it. He says we need to know what caused it. Why it happened? What happened? Women have to have confidence in the results. How long did Eastern Health Care keep this a secret from the Minister of Health? The only recourse is a judicial inquiry. AIRED: 11:06 DURATION: 04:00 REPORTER: LINDA SWAIN

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CREDIBILITY OF POSITIVE DIAGNOSIS: "Caller" was diagnosed with breast cancer three years ago. She now wants to know how she can find out if this is a false positive. She does not understand what is going on. She is not part of the class action law suite. She has been taking her medications and is doing well. There is a lot of concern out there. She is worried. AIRED: 11:14 DURATION: 06:00 REPORTER: LINDA SWAIN

INTEGRITY OF TESTING: "Mercedes", Board of Directors of The Canadian Breast Cancer Network, says she spoke to Eastern Health about the false diagnosis last year. She inquired why they were only testing in one place. She was told that they were doing it in one place because it was accredited and in the British mode. She asked how they knew that the tests had been done wrongly. She was told a new piece of equipment had picked up the problem. She said that Eastern should have been able to pick up the problem earlier as there was a statically anomaly with all the negatives. She does not think that there is such thing as a false positive. This is a very worrisome situation. She says her group are advocating for extensions to EI benefits from the current 15 weeks. People need more time to recover. AIRED: 11:23 DURATION: 05:00 REPORTER: LINDA SWAIN

BREAST SCREENING CLINIC: "Pauline" called to ask some questions about the breast screening clinic on LeMarchant Road. She is waiting for a report. She is concerned about the testing. She has a family history of breast cancer in her family. She hopes government can restore confidence in the system. AIRED: 11:40 DURATION: 03:00 REPORTER: LINDA SWAIN