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	A MOTE OF FAMILIES
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Appearances: Bernard Coffey, Q.C Commission Co-counsel	EARIBITS P-03/1 THROUGH P-03/4 Fg. 192
Sandra Chaytor, Q.C Commission Co-counsel	EXHIBITS P-0376 THROUGH P-0393Pg. 192
Mandy Woodland Commission Co-counsel	Zimbiisi osyo iimoodiii osysig.
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Daniel Simmons Eastern Regional Integrated	
Health Authority	
Pamela Taylor/Chesley Crosbie Members of the Breast Cancer	
Testing Class Action	
Mark Pike NL Medical Association	
Jennifer Newbury Canadian Cancer Society (NL Division)	
David Eaton Central, Western and Labrador-Grenfell	
Regional Integrated Health Authorities	
	Page 4
THIS PAGE ONLY REVISED ON NOVEMBER 18, 2008	1 THE COMMISSIONER:
	2 Q. Please be seated. Mr. Simmons, I think you're
TABLE OF CONTENTS	3 up.
	4 MR. SIMMONS:
MR. ROSS WISEMAN - RESUMES THE STAND	5 Q. Thank you, Commissioner, I've finished my
	6 questions. I don't have any other questions
Examination by Mr. Peter Browne	7 for Mr. Wiseman.
Examination by Ms. Jennifer Newbury Pgs. 19 - 63	8 MR. BROWNE:
Examination by Ms. Pamela Taylor Pgs. 63 - 77 Examination by Mr. Mark Pike 83	9 Q. I was still (inaudible).
Examination by Mr. Mark Pike	10 THE COMMISSIONER: 11 Q. That's it, Mrwe just have to be like the
Examination by Sandra Chaytor, Q.C Pgs. 143 - 190	12 Boy Scouts, prepared.
Examination by Sandra Chaytor, Q.C 1 gs. 145	13 MR. ROSS WISEMAN, EXAMINATION BY MR. PETER BROWNE
MR. GEORGE TILLEY - SWORN	14 MR. BROWNE:
	15 Q. Good morning, Mr. Wiseman.
Examination by Bernard Coffey, Q.C PgS. 190 - 285	16 MR. WISEMAN:
	17 A. Good morning.
	18 MR. BROWNE:
	19 Q. I just have two areas of questioning I want to
	20 pursue with you today. And I do appreciate
	21 you have spent a lot of time here today and
	22 I'll try to be as expedient as possible in
	canvassing these areas. The first areaand
	just so I introduce myself. My name is Peter
	25 Browne, I'm representing a number of

1	111111	- 4.8	inquiry on Hormone receptor Testing
	Page 5		Page 7
1	physicians who may or will be called before	1	that, what that delay may have meant on their
2	the Inquiry. And in respect of that I want to	2	health, then it would have been appropriate to
3	go and deal with an area that you mentioned, I	3	let those people know at that time so they
4	think, early in the first days of your	4	could be a part of that decision making about
5	evidence and that is a comment to Ms. Chaytor	5	what course of treatment they would take.
6	from a line of questioning of Ms. Chaytor that	6 MI	R. BROWNE:
7	you disagreed with the approach, and I want,	7	Q. Okay. Let me just follow that logic a bit
8	if you could, please, I'm giving you an	8	further now. You had mentioned in your answer
9	opportunity to clarify this for me, it may be	9	just now and I think earlier on that part of
10	confusion on my part, but in the early days	10	the, I guess, decision making was influenced
11	you disagreed with the approach of the	11	by advice received from clinicians, is that
12	previous minister, Minister Ottenheimer and	12	right?
13	you would have, if you were in that capacity,	13 MI	R. WISEMAN:
14	disclosed to the public earlier. Is that-did	14	A. Yes.
15	I understand you correctly in that regard or		R. BROWNE:
16	did I get that confused?		Q. That's your understanding?
1	MR. WISEMAN:		R. WISEMAN:
18	A. What I had indicated I wasn't taking exception		A. What I understand, yes.
19	to Mr. Ottenheimer's decision, but I had		R. BROWNE:
20	indicated that in my view the information		Q. Okay. And I want to pursue that. Well, let
21	should have been disclosed. I have indicated,	21	me ask you, have you had the opportunity of
22	you know, Mr. Ottenheimer was there, had a	22	hearing Mr. Ottenheimer's evidence in that
23	discussion with officials from Eastern Health,	23	respect?
24	I wasn't in the room, I don't know the flavour		R. WISEMAN:
25	for the discussion, I don't know that may have		A. I've had a clip of it that was being
23	`	23	
١.	Page 6		Page 8
1	influenced his decision at that time, I didn't	1	televised, but I haven't had a personal
2	hear the comments made by the people providing	2	conversation with Mr. Ottenheimer to explore
3	the advice and so I, in the absence of being	3	his reasoning or logic at that time.
4	there I wouldn't comment on, you know, his		R. BROWNE:
5	actions. But in terms of the notion that we		Q. Okay. Well, let me just sort of go over some
6	would, you know, not provide an early	6	of the issues that were at play. I think the
7	disclosure is what I said I had a different	7	discussion that Mr. Ottenheimer had with
8	opinion and believe that it should have been	8	clinicians occurred on August 15th, I believe,
9	disclosed at that time.	9	in 2005. And during his testimony, in fact,
10	MR. BROWNE:	10	during cross-examination by me he was shown a
11	Q. Have you formulated when that should have	11	document. Now, I'm going to show you the same
	been, at what point in time, looking back, or	10	4 14
12		12	document. It's now an exhibit, it's Exhibit
12 13	have you sort of done that sort of	13	0161. Registrar, if we could find that,
1			0161. Registrar, if we could find that, please? It'll come up on the screen, Mr.
13 14	have you sort of done that sort of	13	0161. Registrar, if we could find that, please? It'll come up on the screen, Mr. Wiseman, in one second. Mr. Wiseman, this is
13 14	have you sort of done that sort of retrospective analysis?	13 14	0161. Registrar, if we could find that, please? It'll come up on the screen, Mr.
13 14 15	have you sort of done that sort of retrospective analysis? MR. WISEMAN:	13 14 15	0161. Registrar, if we could find that, please? It'll come up on the screen, Mr. Wiseman, in one second. Mr. Wiseman, this is
13 14 15 16	have you sort of done that sort of retrospective analysis? MR. WISEMAN: A. In my view, when we became aware of the fact that there was a large number of people who were impacted, had their tests deemed to be	13 14 15 16	0161. Registrar, if we could find that, please? It'll come up on the screen, Mr. Wiseman, in one second. Mr. Wiseman, this is a document that has been prepared and just recently sanctioned by a body known as the Canadian Patient Safety Institute. Are you
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Γ	Page			Page 11	
1		1		agree with that?	
2				WISEMAN:	
3		3		I'd need to read it in the context of the rest	
4		4		of that sentence. In and of, by itself	
l	MR. BROWNE:	5		obviously it follows something else. But, you	
6		6		know, as a stand-alone statement it doesn't	
7		7		appear to make any contradictory comments.	
8		8	MR.	BROWNE:	
9		9		But the concept of "Time is required to gather	
10		10		all the necessary facts and information."	
11		11		that's my focus here, Minister.	
12		12	MR.	WISEMAN:	
13	•	13	A	Before disclosure?	
14		14	MR.	BROWNE:	
15	necessarily reflect the views of Health	15	Q	Yes.	
16		16	MR.	WISEMAN:	
17		17	A	You would need to, yes, understand what it is	
18		18		you're disclosing, yes.	
19	want to point out to you some comments and	19	MR.	BROWNE:	
20		20	Q	Okay. Great, thank you. Now, if you turn to	
21	paragraph, the first sentence, "The principles	21		the next page, page 4, you'll see that these	
22	of openness and transparency are becoming	22		are a number of participants and these, I	
23	increasingly important to the Canadian	23		think, these participants are stakeholders, I	
24	public." You agree with that?	24		would suggest, throughout the health care	
25	MR. WISEMAN:	25		system. And I would suggest, as well, just to	
	Page	10		Page 12	
1	A. I would agree, yeah.	1		sort of put this in a bit more context, this	
2	MR. BROWNE:	2		document, I would suggest, reflects a	
3	Q. And as a matter of fact we've heard evidence	3		consensus across the country and there have	
4	this week about the applicability of the	4		been participants, I think, from all provinces	
5	transparency legislation to hospitals and so	5		to bring this document together. And I just	
6	on, so I mean, that's consistent with the	6		want to point out to you the name Pierre	
7	government's approach to this issue?	7		Deschamps. You'll see that one, two, three,	
8	MR. WISEMAN:	8		four, five, six, seven names down. And I just	
9	A. It is.	9		want to point that out that it seems to me, at	
10	MR. BROWNE:	10		least the inference drawn here is that Mr.	
11	Q. And it goes on to say, "This is especially	11		Deschamps may have some ethics background and	
12	evident in health care as it relates to	12		that there's emphasis on this body. Now, I	
13	information and enables us to make the right	13		know there's been some discussion and there	
14	choices about our health care and treatment we	14		was some confusion, you may recall, about the	
15	receive." Again, you support those	15		ethics committee and so on. But I just want	
16	sentiments?	16		to point out to you that in this document	
17	MR. WISEMAN:	17		there has been some ethical contributions, as	
18	A. It does, yes.	18		well. The particular page, Mr. Wiseman, I	
19	MR. BROWNE:	19		want to ask you to comment on is at page 25.	
20	Q. Now, if you drop down, if you could, please,	20		Now, I had your colleague, Mr. Ottenheimer,	
21	to the third paragraph, last sentence, "We	21		read that and I'd ask you to do the same,	
اء	acknowledge that respect compassion honosty	22		places Take your time	

22

24

23 MR. WISEMAN:

25 THE COMMISSIONER:

please. Take your time.

A. Which heading the -

acknowledge that respect, compassion, honesty

and patience will be needed in this process as

necessary facts and information." Do you

time will be required to gather all of the

22

23

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A	prii 15, 2006	viulu-P	age inquiry on normone keceptor Testing
	Pag	ge 13	Page 15
1	Q. The whole page or -	1	you yesterday in regard to lessons learned
2	2 MR. BROWNE:	2	from this experience and with the view to
3	Q. Sorry, "Multi-Patient Disclosure." My	3	
4		4	recommendations for the future. And there was
5	5 MR. WISEMAN:	5	a reference I found by an author, Jeffrey
1	A. "In some situations there may be a need to	6	
7		7	
8	same adverse events. Privacy and	8	and Response." Now, unfortunately, Mr.
9	confidentiality remain important. Disclosure	9	Wiseman, I could not find the actual article.
10	discussion should be with only one patient at	10	But, the sentiment that was expressed by this
11	a time, in person, if possible. If disclosure	11	author was that most hospitals at all times
12	cannot be in person, it should be done by	12	are operating at near or full capacity and
13	registered mail and/or telephone with	13	that there may be occasions where there is an
14	opportunities for follow-up made available.	14	incident which causes a surge on their
15	In addition, disclosure should be timed, if	15	preparedness, okay, and it's called the surge
16	possible, to occur with all patients involved	16	capacity, that hospitals, when big patients
17	at approximately the same time, and, if	17	where there's an issue involving multiple
18	possible, prior to any informing process,	18	patients does not have the capacity to deal
19	especially media coverage being considered."	19	with that surge to its system. And the
20	MR. BROWNE:	20	question I have there for you is is thereand
21	Q. Okay. Now, Mr. Ottenheimer was shown th	nis 21	there's some analogies, I would suggest, to
22	passage, as well, and he was asked the	22	what has occurred here. As you talked about a
23	question by me whether or not this was	23	moment ago, the number of patients involved
24	consistent with the advice he received from	24	here and we saw e-mails back when Mr.
25	the clinicians back in August 15th, 2005. He	25	Ottenheimer testified of the numbers being 12
	Pag	ge 14	Page 16
1			44
2		2	
3	3 MR. WISEMAN:	3	
4	A. In and of itself and when youthe challenge I	4	^ ^
5		5	sort of a, maybe a curve ball for you, but
1 6	being made here. But if you take a document	t 6	that concept generally, do you view that there
7			is a role for government to come in and help
8		8	
9	understood the full document in the context of	f 9	
10	which this would have been balanced with	10	
11	something else. But in isolation I wouldn't	11	MR. WISEMAN:
12	challenge any of the statements -	12	A. If any hospital or any health authority felt
13	3 MR. BROWNE:	13	itself in dealing with a major issue that it
14	Q. Okay. And I guess the best person to ask	14	was facing, whether it was a disaster they
15	whether that advice was consistent with this	15	were trying to deal with or that they had a
16	would be Mr. Ottenheimer who heard that	16	spike in activity level, then it wouldn't be
17	advice?	17	unreasonable for the, you know, that
18	3 MR. WISEMAN:	18	
19	A. Yes, exactly.	19	•
20	MR. BROWNE:	20	facilitate providing some additional resources
21	Q. Okay. Thank you. And last evening I was	21	or to help with that volume. It may include
22	looking at some literature, and unfortunately	22	the support from one of the other authorities,
23	I could not find the article that I'm just	23	it may include support from the department
1-		1	1. 10 · 1.1 · 1.1

24

25

itself to assist with a process. That wouldn't, I wouldn't be--you know, if that

going to mention to you now, and it had to do

with a series of questions Ms. Chaytor asked

24

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ı	Page 17		Page 19
1		1	organization, if they found themselves in that
2		2	set of circumstance, that they would identify
3	MR. BROWNE:	3	clearly what the issue is, clearly what the
4	Q. Okay. But if I could just come back in terms	4	magnitude would be, and identify the resources
5	1 27	5	they would need to be able to deal with it at
6	<i>E</i> , ,	6	that moment. If they didn't have that ability
7	,	7	to realign their own operation to be able to
8	ε	8	accommodate that, it would be reasonable for
9	MR. WISEMAN:	9	them to have a discussion either with
10	•	10	ourselves as the department or have a
11	surge, I would expect the organization itself,	11	discussion with maybe one of the other
12	<u> </u>	12	•
13	·	13	
14	1	14	collectively, although we'd need to work
15		15	through to be able to assist that authority.
16	1 5	16	MR. BROWNE:
17	organization themselves through a realignment	17	Q. Thank you. Thank you, Commissioner.
18	1	18	THE COMMISSIONER:
19		19	Q. Thank you, Mr. Browne. I think Mr. Eaton
20		20	indicated yesterday he had no questions for
21	1 , J & E	21	the witness. That's correct Ms. O'Dea?
22	•	22	MR. ROSS WISEMAN, EXAMINATION BY MR. JENNIFER NEWBURY
23	may get the available resources and supports	23	MS. NEWBURY:
24		24	Q. Good morning, Mr. Wiseman.
25	operational level, most of our authorities, I	25	MR. WISEMAN:
	Page 18		Page 20
1	suspect, would deal withthe magnitude may	1	A. Good morning.
2	not be as large as what we're talking about	2	MS. NEWBURY:
3	here in terms of the numbers, but in any given	3	Q. Jennifer Newbury for the Canadian Cancer
4	day I suspect that each of our authorities are		~
5		4	Society, Newfoundland and Labrador Division.
1 2	dealing with spikes in activity, whether it's	4 5	Society, Newfoundland and Labrador Division. I have a few questions for you this morning.
6			I have a few questions for you this morning.
l	an extremely busy emergency department or	5	I have a few questions for you this morning.
6	an extremely busy emergency department or pressures on the beds that they have or in the	5 6	I have a few questions for you this morning. I just wanted to talk to you generally about
6 7	an extremely busy emergency department or pressures on the beds that they have or in the community sector a large request for, you	5 6 7	I have a few questions for you this morning. I just wanted to talk to you generally about briefing notes and records in the Department
6 7 8	an extremely busy emergency department or pressures on the beds that they have or in the community sector a large request for, you know, home support services and these are	5 6 7 8	I have a few questions for you this morning. I just wanted to talk to you generally about briefing notes and records in the Department of Health, just some general questions on that
6 7 8 9	an extremely busy emergency department or pressures on the beds that they have or in the community sector a large request for, you know, home support services and these are	5 6 7 8 9	I have a few questions for you this morning. I just wanted to talk to you generally about briefing notes and records in the Department of Health, just some general questions on that topic. First of all, how would a Minister of
6 7 8 9 10	an extremely busy emergency department or pressures on the beds that they have or in the community sector a large request for, you know, home support services and these are peeks and valleys that occur, it's the nature of theof what it is they do within our	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	I have a few questions for you this morning. I just wanted to talk to you generally about briefing notes and records in the Department of Health, just some general questions on that topic. First of all, how would a Minister of Health ascertain what the position of his predecessors has been on a particular issue within the department?
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6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	an extremely busy emergency department or pressures on the beds that they have or in the community sector a large request for, you know, home support services and these are peeks and valleys that occur, it's the nature of theof what it is they do within our authorities. MR. BROWNE: Q. Right. But I think this author was focusing on special sort of significant events such as	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	I have a few questions for you this morning. I just wanted to talk to you generally about briefing notes and records in the Department of Health, just some general questions on that topic. First of all, how would a Minister of Health ascertain what the position of his predecessors has been on a particular issue within the department? MR. WISEMAN: A. If it wasit might be direct communication with that person and it might flow from, you
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Ap	LII 12	5, 2008 Niuit	i-r age	inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing
		Page 21		Page 23
1	Q.	Yes, generally any position, you know, the	1	look to Hansard or perhaps you'd look to
2		stance taken by a department or any	2	letters, but no sort of comprehensive
3		conclusions reached by a department in the	3	catalogue of information?
4		past. I think you've indicated, I guess from	4 MF	R. WISEMAN:
5		the totality of your evidence, that the	5	A. No, not that I'm aware of. I've not see it.
6		briefing notes would not have represented in	6 MS	S. NEWBURY:
7		the past, certainly, a Minister's position,	7	Q. And with regard to questions in the House of
8		because a lot of times it's just some	8	Assembly, now that we're on that topic, do you
9		suggested answers but not necessarily what the	9	typically get feedback from officials in your
10		Minister believes to be the department's	10	department about information that you relay
11		position or his or her own position?	11	while you're in the House of Assembly
12	MR. W	VISEMAN:	12	answering questions or making statements?
13	A.	I'm not certain if that's been recorded	13 MF	R. WISEMAN:
14		somewhere, if as the Minister today I make a	14	A. It can happen. In the instance here, for
15		position or take a position on something and	15	example, you know, I remember last year when I
16		make a statement to that effect, I'm not	16	made a comment in the House about the fact
17		certain if that's recorded in some kind of a	17	that the ER/PR area of the lab had now opened
18		log, I'm not aware of that. It would be,	18	and the, implying that the entire province was
19		there'd be a reliance on the officials in the	19	now using it, that got corrected by officials
20		department and that institutional knowledge	20	when I got back to the department. But if I,
21		that might exist within the organization to be	21	you know, if I make a statement in the House
22		able to share that at some future point. If	22	that, you know, that I'd expect, you know,
23		it's been made in the House of Assembly, the	23	officials if they would hear that, that they
24		comment would be recorded in Hansard. If it	24	would bring it to my attention if I had in
25		was a position taken by the department because	25	some way not provided totally accurate
		Page 22		Page 24
1		there was a, you know, a Cabinet paper put	1	information or that I had shared something
2		forward on it as in looking for approval from	2	that, you know, may not, you know, provide the
3		the Cabinet, it might exist in that kind of	3	clarity that it was necessary or something
4		form. But if it's an opinion expressed by the	4	like that. But I remember that instance in
5		Minister of the day as being the department's	5	particular because I had said that the lab was
6		view of that day, I'm not certain that it's	6	open and everybody was using it.
7		documented in any kind of a log of some kind.	7 MS	S. NEWBURY:
8		If it forms a policy that would, you know,	8	Q. And in the period of time when you first
9		influence how our authorities would deliver	9	focused on this issue, from about May 15th and
10		programs and services or influence a, you	10	forward, you were speaking quite frequently in
11		know, a direction provided to the authorities,	11	the House of Assembly on these issues, were
12		then that would be covered off in some kind of	12	there any other instances that you can recall
13		correspondence that would have gone out to the	13	when you were corrected by officials in your
14		authorities that indicated that the, you know,	14	department?
15		the position of the department today or the	15 MF	R. WISEMAN:
16		position of the Minister today is this and	16	A. That's about the only time I can recall.
17		therefore we'd like you to act accordingly,	17 MS	S. NEWBURY:
18		that might be covered off in correspondence.	18	Q. And is there any requirement that, you know, a
19		But in terms of any cataloguing, I'm not	19	designated person on a given day listen to

21 MS. NEWBURY:

20

certain.

Q. Okay. So basically you would have to rely upon, I guess, verbal information relayed from officials in the department or perhaps if it was mentioned in the House of Assembly, you'd

22 MR. WISEMAN:

or is it just--sorry.

2021

A. Generally--it's not a designation, well, it may be but I'm not aware that it is, but it just happens. Each day during the House of

what you are relaying in the House of Assembly

Aı	oril 15, 2008 Mul	lti-P	age IM	Inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing
	Page 2	5		Page 27
1	Assembly the director of communications for	1	,	category, obviously, of clinicians?
2		2		ISEMAN:
3		3		Exactly.
4	or somewhere in the precincts of the House of			EWBURY:
5		5		You were also asked about the term, "Centre of
6		6		Excellence" and what that meant to you. And
7		7		just now thinking about those two terms that
8		8		you've been questioned about, clinical team
9		9		members and Centre of Excellence, I was
10		10		wondering whether there's any requirement that
11	may, and as I've done recently, indicated that	11		in communications, you know, within the
12		12		Department of Health or between the Department
13		13		of Health and Eastern Health, as an example,
14		14		is there any requirement that terms that may
15	<u> </u>	15		not have an obvious meaning be defined either
16		16		by reference to an existing statute or that if
17	MS. NEWBURY:	17		there is no such ready definition that a
18	Q. Okay. And during that period of time, from	18		definition be provided within the document or
19		19		some other format?
20		20	MR. W	ISEMAN:
21		21	Α.	Not that I'm aware of.
22		22	MS. NE	EWBURY:
23	MR. WISEMAN:	23	Q. (Okay.
24	A. Would have been normal practice for the	24	MR. W	ISEMAN:
25	director of communications to have been there.	25	Α.	What you'reif you're asking whether or not
	Page 2	6		Page 28
1	MS. NEWBURY:	1		I'm aware if there's some glossary of terms or
2		2		some understanding that once we introduce new
3		3		terms, that we in some way formally
4	·	4		acknowledge the definition of that term, I'm
5		5		not aware of the existence of that kind of a
6		6	j	policy or that kind of glossary.
7		7		EWBURY:
8		8	Q. (Okay. And that hasn't been addressed, I know
9	category of clinicians or vice versa?	9) f	that there was a recentthe briefing notes,
10	MR. WISEMAN:	10) 1	there's a new set of guidelines developed in
11	A. When I make a reference to clinicians, I would	11		January of 2008 and that hasn't been addressed
12	have been referencing anybody who would have	12	<u>.</u>	in that new set of guidelines, has it?
13	been involved in making a clinical decision	13	MR. W	ISEMAN:
14	around the care and treatment of a patient.	14	A	I don't know theI've seen the guidelines or
15	MS. NEWBURY:	15	i i	a recent set of guidelines, whether it's the
16	Q. Okay. So that could include physicians?	16	j (one you're referencing or not, and that's not
17	MR. WISEMAN:	17	(something that would have been ordinarily
18	A. Could include physicians, might be -	18	;	addressed in that kind of document. I think
19	MS. NEWBURY:	19) 1	that was aif you're referring to the same
20	Q. And nurse or therapists -	20) (one, I think that's a document used within
21	MR. WISEMAN:	21		government to provide some direction to all
1	. 1 1 1 4 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1		1 1 .1

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departments as to how they may structure briefing notes and their intended use. And so

it's an education tool to assist people in

drafting briefing notes, if it's the same

variety of people.

A. - psychologists, might be nurses, could be a

Q. Okay. So physicians then would be a sub-

22

23

25

24 MS. NEWBURY:

numerous discussions around the issue of ER/PR 16 17 and, you know, those of us who make public 18 commentary about it, you know, wanting to 19 ensure that we create context for it. And because I expressed the view, the concern that 20 21 in a continuous negative discussion around 22 what's happened here, it has the potential to,

you know, undermine or to bring concerns

around other aspects of our health care that

may not be necessary or question other very

and that this helped to contribute to healthy 16 17 public policy. Do you share these views?

18 MR. WISEMAN:

A. I would agree with that.

20 MS. NEWBURY:

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24

Q. Okay. So your concerns that you've just alluded to earlier about speaking to various advocacy groups, that relates to the manner in which there is a communication with the media? 25 MR. WISEMAN:

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Page 33 Page 35 A. No, my comment earlier in terms of advocacy 1 1 MR. WISEMAN: 2 groups, or any of us who speak on public A. I didn't make the distinction in this letter. issues, need to be very cognizant of the I can't reflect on my -- think about my 3 3 context we create around our comments. So if thought process at the time, but this letter 4 4 clearly doesn't make the distinction that's 5 we're talking about ER/PR, or if we're talking 5 about surgical program, or if we're talking your point. The other one is I did become 6 6 about a very specific issue, then it's that aware some time during last year that the 7 7 8 very specific issue, and so if we're not 8 issue around those that were deceased and that contact had not been made with all of the 9 careful sometimes, we can cast that net much 10 wider and if we're being critical of an issue 10 families. or being critical of a broader issue, we may 11 11 MS. NEWBURY: 12 want to focus our comments on. 12 Q. Okay. Were there any other groups of categories of patients for whom notification 13 MS. NEWBURY: 13 Q. But in the course of your dealing with the was deferred? 14 14 ER/PR issue, there has been nothing that has 15 MR. WISEMAN: 15 16 been said by the Canadian Cancer Society that 16 A. No. As I -- at this particular moment in time has caused you any concern? here as this letter was being written, not 17 17 18 MR. WISEMAN: 18 that I was aware of. A. Not that I'm aware of, no. 19 MS. NEWBURY: Q. Okay. 20 MS. NEWBURY: 20 Q. I'd like to refer you to Exhibit 0219, please. 21 21 MR. WISEMAN: 22 That's a letter to the editor that you wrote 22 A. The information I was getting at the time was 23 in response to an article of Andre Picard. 23 that all patients had been contacted. 24 MS. NEWBURY: 24 MR. WISEMAN: A. Yes. 25 Q. But subsequently did you learn of any other Page 34 Page 36 1 MS. NEWBURY: groups of patients or categories? 1 Q. And paragraph five of the letter, I'm not sure 2 2 MR. WISEMAN: which page that's on -- so right down at the 3 3 A. I now understand as of today, and I shared bottom of the page, if you look at the second 4 this yesterday in terms of updated information 4 5 sentence there, "There was full disclosure 5 that's been done by the task force on adverse with patients and their families once test health events is they've looked at 6 6 results became available beginning in October, 7 7 reconstructing the database. I now understand 8 2005". I'm just wondering if that statement 8 that there are other individuals who weren't to you at the time that you wrote this letter 9 9 contacted up until very recently. or signed the letter, if that applied to both 10 10 MS. NEWBURY: 11 living and deceased patients? 11 Q. Some of those, it would appear, might have been through oversight and others might have 12 MR. WISEMAN: 12 13 A. There's no distinction made in this letter 13 been an actual decision to postpone? 14 here, and I did become aware some time last 14 MR. WISEMAN: year and I don't know if it predates this 15 A. I'm not aware of that. letter, but I did become aware that not all 16 16 MS. NEWBURY: 17 patients of the -- there had been a 17 Q. Okay. I'm going to ask you some questions now distinction made between family members of 18 18 about retesting of deceased patient's samples. 19 those that were deceased, and I don't remember 19 First of all, when you first learned of an what date I became aware of that distinction, 20 20 issue involving retesting of samples of the but this letter here doesn't make that 21 21 deceased patients, did you understand at that 22 distinction. 22 moment in time that there was actually no existing plan to retest the remaining, I think 23 MS. NEWBURY: 23

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at that time, 73 samples of deceased patients

except if there was a specific request from a

all at this point in time?

Q. Okay, and you hadn't focused on the issue at

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Page 37 Page 39 family member? A. That's what I understood, yes. 1 2 MR. WISEMAN: 2 MS. NEWBURY: A. If I remember, there was something to that --Q. Okay, and I guess from my own perspective, 3 3 whether the numbers are -- I don't recall any looking at what might be involved in terms of 4 4 5 numbers, but I remember at the time wanting to 5 focusing on the living patients as opposed to ensure that everyone was redone, including the those who are deceased and obviously couldn't 6 6 deceased. I don't recall definitively whether be helped by a change of treatment, I guess --7 7 8 there was a definite decision made to not do, 8 to me there's three types of categories of 9 or there was an expression that we may not do, resources that might be required, and I'm just 9 10 I'm not sure which. going to ask you a little bit about those. 10 You may agree or disagree, and one you've just 11 MS. NEWBURY: 11 highlighted is the retesting of the samples Q. Okay. 12 12 13 MR. WISEMAN: themselves, and you've indicated that the 13 retesting -- the bulk of the retesting was 14 A. But there was -- you know, clearly my desire 14 at that time when I became aware of it, to done at Mount Sinai. 15 15 16 ensure that they all got done. 16 MR. WISEMAN: A. Uh-hm. 17 MS. NEWBURY: 17 18 Q. Okay. So whether the issue was that it was 18 MS. NEWBURY: 19 just deferred to a later date or if it was Q. And were you aware that there were any suspended entirely, did you understand that concerns expressed by Mount Sinai that they 20 20 whichever of those situations applied, it was didn't have the capacity to do any further 21 21 22 due to some concern about available resources? 22 retesting or that they were -- or that there 23 were no funds available to do retesting at 23 MR. WISEMAN: Mount Sinai? 24 A. I'm not -- I can't recall the reason and I 24 probably wouldn't have been preoccupied with 25 25 MR. WISEMAN: Page 38 Page 40 the reason. If it was my desire to have it A. There was a point I understood that at some --1 1 done, then I would have expressed that view. 2 when the exercise started, there was a belief 2 that they'd be able to do them in a certain 3 3 MS. NEWBURY: Q. Okay. Did you have expressed to you by anyone period of time. 4 4 5 in your Department or anyone at Eastern Health 5 MS. NEWBURY: that there were any issues regarding lack of O. Uh-hm. 6 6 7 resources? 7 MR. WISEMAN: A. And I think that volume of work being sent 8 MR. WISEMAN: 8 from St. John's to Mount Sinai, together with A. To do the retesting? 9 their own activity at that hospital, there was 10 MS. NEWBURY: 10 11 O. Yes. 11 some recognition at some point that it was coming slower than they had thought because of 12 MR. WISEMAN: 12 A. I don't recall that. The issue of resource 13 the volume. I remember hearing that in a 13 conversation. I don't recall having much of 14 here was -- they were being done in Mount 14 any discussion around challenges with 15 Sinai, so there was some work in preparation 15 resources and that was a problem here in to get them sent out, but the retesting 16 16 17 process was being handled at another hospital. 17 getting these redone. 18 MS. NEWBURY: 18 MS. NEWBURY: Q. It was my understanding that most of the 19 Q. And I think it was your evidence the other day 19 retesting of those that were retested had been 20 that you had understood that the reason for 20 completed in early 2006, and the decision was 21 suspending the retesting of the deceased 21 22 patients was a desire to focus on existing not made until later in 2006 to either suspend 22 or postpone the retesting of deceased samples, 23 living patients, particularly those who may 23 24 require a change of treatment? so obviously that period of time that Mount 24

25

Sinai was having some capacity issues, in my

25 MR. WISEMAN:

- view would not have affected retesting of the 1
- 2 deceased samples later on, that particular
- incident, and you're not aware of any other 3
- incidents? 4
- 5 MR. WISEMAN:
- A. Not that I'm aware of.
- 7 MS. NEWBURY:
- 8 Q. Okay, and you're not aware that Eastern Health
- ran out of money to pay Mount Sinai for this 9
- 10 retesting?
- 11 MR. WISEMAN:
- A. That would have been the first time I would 12
- have heard any reference to money in this 13
- 14 discussion.
- 15 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. And I guess the other possible involvement of 16
- resources, either human or financial 17
- resources, would be reviewing the information 18
- 19 from Mount Sinai. Would you agree that that's
- another area where some resources might have 20
- 21 to be spent?
- 22 MR. WISEMAN:
- A. Yes. 23

- 24 MS. NEWBURY:
- 25 Q. And it was your -- your predecessor, Mr.

- get it done, I would have said so, and that 1
- 2 would have been the end of the discussion. So

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- I never did have any --3
- 4 MS. NEWBURY:
- Q. There was no big debate with you? 5
- 6 MR. WISEMAN:
 - A. There was no big debate with me about this
- 8 issue.
- 9 MS. NEWBURY:
- 10 Q. You just said this has to get done.
- 11 MR. WISEMAN:
- A. It had to be done and move on and get it done.
- 13 MS. NEWBURY:

17 MR. WISEMAN:

- O. And I think within a week a decision had been
- 15 clearly made that they were going to proceed
- 16 with retesting?
- A. Yes, so I wouldn't have had a great debate or 18
 - discussion. No one decided to have that
- debate with me. 20
- 21 MS. NEWBURY:

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5

- 22 Q. So you can't either confirm or deny what Mr.
- Osborne understood to be the case? 23
- 24 MR. WISEMAN:
- A. No.

Page 42

- Osborne, indicated that there was a concern 1
- 2 that if oncologists and physicians had to
- devote the same kind of time and effort to 3
- review the cases of the patients who are now 4
 - deceased as they had to do for the living,
- that it risked making it difficult for them to 6
- carry out their regular workload, and he'd 7
- also indicated that the people who would be 8
- 9 involved in the exercise of identifying and
- processing the deceased patient's tests was 10
- 11 those who sat on the tumor panel which
- consisted of oncologists, pathologists, and 12
- 13 surgeons. Was it your understanding as well
- that the tumor panel would be involved in the 14
- 15 review of the samples of deceased patients?
- 16 MR. WISEMAN:
- 17 A. I don't recall that conversation, and, you
- know, the issue -- just so that you understand 18
- 19 the length of the discussion or the nature of
- the discussion I would have had, you know, the 20
- time when I would have had that discussion 21
- 22 there wouldn't have been a -- I don't recall
- any lengthy discussion around the issue. It 23
- 24 was more a matter of it came to my attention
- that they weren't done and it was my desire to 25

1 MS. NEWBURY:

- Q. And nothing was ever expressed to you directly
- about that issue, and a third area, I think,
- from my perspective that resources, either 4
 - financial or human might be required regarding
- the test of the deceased, would be 6
- with family members, 7 communicating
- communicating the results with family members. 8
- Had anyone at the Department of Health or 9
- Eastern Health ever expressed any concern to 10
- 11 you that they lacked the capacity or resources
- to do that? 12
- 13 MR. WISEMAN:
- A. Not to me. Whether they had with officials in 14
- the Department, I don't know. 15
- 16 MS. NEWBURY:
- 17 Q. And after you made the decision, or directed,
- or strongly suggested that they proceed with 18
- 19 the retesting of the deceased, were you
- approached to request any sort of special 20
- 21 funds or anything else to assist them in terms
 - of a resource?
- 23 MR. WISEMAN: A. No. 24

22

25 MS. NEWBURY:

Page 45 Page 47 Q. And did you hear any problems encountered by 1 MS. NEWBURY: 1 2 Eastern Health, anyone at Eastern Health was Q. And to go a little bit further, would that involved in this process about accomplishing direct contact be a telephone call or face to 3 3 this task? face meeting? 4 4 5 MR. WISEMAN: 5 MR. WISEMAN: A. Not to my knowledge, no. In conversations, A. I don't recall how that broke down, the 6 there were many comments about how taxing this reference to direct contact by the Authority. 7 7 was and how this was consuming a lot of the 8 8 MS. NEWBURY: energy, time, and human resources within the Q. Okay. So there was no sort of delving into --9 9 10 organization focusing on it, but it was said 10 I'm just wondering if you delved into this; okay, we've got one position from Eastern as a comment in terms of the intensity of the 11 11 Health, and we've got, you know, apparently 12 work. No one ever came to me and said we 12 can't do this because we don't have enough or more than one patient saying that they hadn't 13 13 we need more money to do this. I never did been contacted, did you look further into --14 14 get those kinds of comments. 15 MR. WISEMAN: 15 16 MS. NEWBURY: 16 A. Some of those inquiries, for example, when we Q. And you never ever learned one way or the heard those statements, we made contact with 17 17 other whether the tumor panel was involved in Eastern Health, you know, we've heard this 18 18 story about this particular lady, or that we 19 reviewing --19 had a call from this particular lady. There 20 MR. WISEMAN: 20 A. I wouldn't have had that discussion, or didn't was a couple of instances where we had calls 21 21 22 have the discussion. 22 and we were able to identify the individual, and upon exploring it, if I recall, there were 23 23 MS. NEWBURY: a couple of examples where there had been some Q. I'd like to ask you a few questions now 24 24 regarding contacting patients, and I believe initial contact, but there hadn't been the 25 25 Page 46 Page 48 you indicated that when you first focused on 1 follow up contact done, so that was taken care 1 2 the ER/PR issue in May, 2007, that there were 2 of. conflicting stories between what you were 3 3 MS. NEWBURY: hearing from individuals who said that they 4 o. Okay. 5 had not been contacted by Eastern Health, and 5 MR. WISEMAN: that included some calls, I believe, to the A. But beyond that, I mean, there was always -6 6 7 Department of Health, as well as what you 7 they were pretty clear that they made contact would have heard in the media? 8 8 with everybody. 9 MR. WISEMAN: 9 MS. NEWBURY: A. Yes. Q. So at that time you were able to resolve the 10 10 11 MS. NEWBURY: 11 calls that had been made to the Department of Q. And that contrasted with repeated adamant Health? 12 12 assurances from Eastern Health that all 13 13 MR. WISEMAN: 14 patients had been contacted. A. There was a couple that I recall that got I'm just 14 wondering at that point in time, did you 15 resolved, they had been dealt with. 15 explore with Eastern Health, anyone at Eastern 16 MS. NEWBURY: 16 Health or anyone within your Department who 17 17 Q. Were there any that weren't resolved? might have the information, the method of 18 18 MR. WISEMAN: 19 contact used in communicating information to A. Not to my knowledge. The ones that got 19 resolved, the ones that contact had been made, the individuals? 20 20 and I don't know if there was a communication 21 MR. WISEMAN: 21 A. At some point in time, I learned there was two -- I wouldn't use that phrase "communication", 22 22 methods. One, direct contact by the Health but there was an issue that clearly Eastern 23 23 Authority itself, and the second was using Health confirmed that they had, in fact, made 24 24 physicians. 25 contact. 25

Page 49 Page 51 1 MS. NEWBURY: 1 MR. WISEMAN: Q. Okay. A. No, I can't. It would have been -- you know, I suspect well into May month because there 3 MR. WISEMAN: 3 A. But the issue around the method of contact, I was a lot of public discussion around it for 4 didn't -- I don't recall trying to clarify the weeks that followed the middle of May. 5 5 that in terms of the methodology used. 6 MS. NEWBURY: 7 MS. NEWBURY: Q. Were you ever advised of any incidents, 7 whether or not there were any incident that 8 Q. Okay. Now in terms of those two couple of 8 cases that you managed to resolve, you had Eastern Health experienced in problems in 9 9 10 indicated that they had been initially 10 their efforts to contact patients with the results of retesting, and in particular contacted, but had not -- does that mean that 11 11 whether there were any patients who had the 12 they were told about the retesting, but they 12 results back and they were -- there wasn't an did not receive the results? 13 13 effort to contact the patient, but for some 14 MR. WISEMAN: 14 reason it did not happen as it should have? 15 A. And there was no change in the results, so 15 16 they --16 Were you aware of any of those incidents? 17 MS. NEWBURY: 17 MR. WISEMAN: 18 Q. Okay, but would you agree that that contact 18 A. I've since become aware of it because of the was not complete with the patients, that work that's been done by the Centre for Health 19 19 really that sort of supports the opposite of Information, and I think yesterday we 20 20 what Eastern Health was stating that they'd disclosed that there was 19 like that who, 21 21 all been contacted? Would you agree that 22 22 because of contact information being different than -- they just haven't been able to contact that's the case? 23 23 them for a variety of reasons in terms of 24 MR. WISEMAN: 24 either phone numbers or a change of address or 25 A. That would seem to be, yes. 25 Page 50 Page 52 1 MS. NEWBURY: some other reason. 1 Q. And did that cause you any concerns about, you 2 MS. NEWBURY: 2 know, the broad adamant statement of Eastern 3 3 Q. Now this information is probably new to Eastern Health, this is something that Health? 4 4 actually was learned as a result of the NLCHI 5 MR. WISEMAN: 5 A. I mean, as I've given already in evidence, as project, is that --6 6 7 time progressed and particularly as we got 7 MR. WISEMAN: into the first part of June when Eastern 8 A. I couldn't say. I don't know. Health had a meeting with Robert Thompson, in 9 9 MS. NEWBURY: particular, started to put some qualifiers on Q. So before you got into doing the NLCHI 10 10 11 their statements, and that's when we started 11 database, so any time prior to June, 2007, as an example, were you told whether or not to drill down a little further, that's when we 12 12 Eastern Health knew at that time that there 13 started to do the audit and verification 13 had been previous experiences, that they 14 process. 14 actually knew -- had confirmed incidents that 15 MS. NEWBURY: 15 Q. So this is actually -- I guess, the resolution some patients had not been contacted in a 16 16 of those issues from those couple of patients, timely fashion with their results? 17 17 that's what helped you come to the conclusion 18 18 MR. WISEMAN: 19 that you had to delve into this further? A. Not contact at all or contact timely? I mean 19 20 MR. WISEMAN: -- because the information I had at that 20 A. We needed to move further and start to -particular point is -- your question as I 21 21 understand it, correct me, is that you want to 22 MS. NEWBURY: 22 know if they were expressing a concern about Q. Can you recall approximately when you verified 23 23 what had happened with those couple of contacting them in a timely way or contacting 24 24

25

them at all?

patients?

Page 53 Page 55 the patients were. So that was the scope of 1 MS. NEWBURY: Q. The question is focusing on whether there were 2 the work being done as part of the database. any known incidents where someone really ought 3 MS. NEWBURY: 3 to have had a decision rather quickly, but Q. Do you know if the project included an 4 4 didn't have it in a timely fashion? analysis of the quality of the contact with 5 5 6 MR. WISEMAN: the patient, and in particular, the adequacy 6 A. The timeliness of the -- I didn't get into a of the message and the adequacy of the method 7 7 discussion around the timeliness of any of the 8 8 of communication? calls that were made or any of the contacts 9 MR. WISEMAN: 9 10 that were made. My focus was around have all 10 A. What I understand is that there's a -- they the calls been made or not. The timeliness of looked at the method of contact, and that's 11 11 12 the calls that they would have gotten, or 12 what -- but the message itself, and the nature whether or not they had it early, late, or of the dialogue that would have occurred, I 13 13 whether or not it was too late for treatment, don't think it looked at that piece, and I'm 14 14 using that phrase, "I don't think" because I didn't get into that kind of discussion. 15 15 16 MS. NEWBURY: 16 it's just come to our attention or the group doing that this recent week that there were Q. Okay. Did you have any discussion or did 17 17 anyone alert you to any problems where a some incidents where the method of 18 18 communication used was through a physician, method had been embarked upon to contact a 19 19 particular patient, but that method had and we became aware this week or the latter 20 20 failed, and it was only through, I guess, a part of last week, I believe, that there was 21 21 22 follow up visit by the patient that it was 22 an incident where a -- that was the method discovered that there had been a retesting? 23 23 recorded, but as a result of contact with a 24 MR. WISEMAN: patient, there was a confirmation that that 24 actually hadn't happened. So Eastern Health A. There was an incident this past week similar 25 25 Page 54 Page 56 to that, or last week or so that came to my is in the process now, as I understand it, of 1 1 attention, but back in May of last year, no. 2 actually going back through each of those that 2 were categorized like that to verify directly 3 MS. NEWBURY: 3 to ensure that contact was made with the Q. Okay. Now in terms of the NLCHI database, is 4 4 5 it your understanding that this database is patient. primarily a compilation of raw or basic data 6 MS. NEWBURY: 6 7 regarding patient contact? 7 Q. Okay. Are they only going back and looking at that category of patients who are to be 8 MR. WISEMAN: 8 A. What we intended to do is make sure the people contacted through their family physician? 9 9 had been -- that's what the exercise started 10 MR. WISEMAN: 10 11 out to do is to make sure that communication 11 A. As I understand it, yes. had occurred. 12 12 MS. NEWBURY: 13 MS. NEWBURY: 13 Q. I'd like to refer to an exhibit that I don't think has been entered yet, P-0439. I wonder 14 Q. Okay. 14 15 if I could have that entered. We've had that 15 MR. WISEMAN: A. To help inform that, obviously you needed to distributed to us, but not yet entered. 16 16 identify who the patients were in question, so 17 17 THE COMMISSIONER: you build a database from identifying the Q. P-0439, which has not yet been entered? Can 18 18 19 patients in question, and then from that track you tell me what it is? 19 the activity around that patient in terms of 20 MS. NEWBURY: 20 their test, their retest, and when the reports 21 21 Q. It's an e-mail from Heather Predham to Pam Elliott, Pat Pilgrim, Oscar Howell, Susan 22 came back, what communication has occurred. 22 Bonnell, and George Tilley. So it started as an exercise to determine 23 23

24 THE COMMISSIONER:

Q. We can enter it now, P-0439 entered.

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whether everybody has been contacted and to

help inform that, you needed to identify who

24

	Page 57		Daga 50
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	DOCUMENT P-0439 MARKED AND ENTERED		1 MS. NEWBURY:
1	MS. NEWBURY:	2	
3	Q. So this is an e-mail, as I've just indicated.	3	
4	It's dated May 16th, 2007, and you're not	4	
5	either the author of this or a recipient of	5	5 MR. WISEMAN:
6	the e-mail, and I'm not going to ask you	6	6 A. No, I haven't, no.
7	anything about that in detail. I wanted to	7	7 MS. NEWBURY:
8	bring your attention to item number four in	8	8 Q. I'd like to refer to Exhibit P-0126 please,
9	the e-mail that says that, "A lady called and	9	page 19 of the exhibit. Page 19 is a briefing
10	said that she had been called and told she was	10	note, one of two for May 16th, 2007 and if you
11	going to be retested, but she had heard	11	look at the second page of that, the first
12	nothing else. She was confirmed negative and	12	bullet on that page says, "An expert panel
13	she was noted to have been contacted".	13	
14	Heather Predham is writing this letter. She	14	
15	says, "This highlights the fact that all this	15	
16	was done verbally and maybe we should have	16	
17	written follow-up letters to all the confirmed	17	_
18	negative". I would suggest that this	18	_
19	indicates that there might still be confusion	19	·
1	——————————————————————————————————————		* *
20	even among those patients that Eastern Health		0 MR. WISEMAN:
21	had believed had been contacted, and Heather's	21	
22	concern, I guess, is maybe that the verbal	22	
23	communication was not enough and perhaps	23	
24	follow up letters would have been a good idea.	24	•
25	I'm wondering if you have or will give any	25	5 cancer, involved in the surgical procedure in
	Page 58		Page 60
1			
1 *	thought when you do the audit, for example, of	1	
2	thought when you do the audit, for example, of verifying the contact via family physicians,	1 2	the first place and then the pathologist and
2	verifying the contact via family physicians,		the first place and then the pathologist and the diagnosis and examination of the tissue.
	verifying the contact via family physicians, whether there's any thought given to directly	2	the first place and then the pathologist and the diagnosis and examination of the tissue. And so, you know, the expertise that they
2 3 4	verifying the contact via family physicians, whether there's any thought given to directly communicating with the patients to make sure	2 3 4	the first place and then the pathologist and the diagnosis and examination of the tissue. And so, you know, the expertise that they would bring to evaluating test results would
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2 3 4 5 6	verifying the contact via family physicians, whether there's any thought given to directly communicating with the patients to make sure that they have received and clearly understood you would agree that these are complex	2 3 4 5 6	the first place and then the pathologist and the diagnosis and examination of the tissue. And so, you know, the expertise that they would bring to evaluating test results would be obviously very varied and so it's because of their expertise that they would bring.
2 3 4 5 6 7	verifying the contact via family physicians, whether there's any thought given to directly communicating with the patients to make sure that they have received and clearly understood you would agree that these are complex issues.	2 3 4 5 6 7	the first place and then the pathologist and the diagnosis and examination of the tissue. And so, you know, the expertise that they would bring to evaluating test results would be obviously very varied and so it's because of their expertise that they would bring. MS. NEWBURY:
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1 MR. WISEMAN:	board, you know, verses, you know, the Board
2 A. The only reference that I've ever heard made	2 of Trustees meaning the trustees themselves,
3 to a name was Dr. Laing, I think, was a	and so my reference to the Board, I may have
4 reference that I had heard in the context of	4 used it interchangeably to refer the Regional
5 this panel. I can't recall other names of -	5 Health Authority and I apologize for that.
6 MS. NEWBURY:	6 MS. NEWBURY:
7 Q. And do you know if any of the other	7 Q. Okay, so it wasn't your evidence then that the
8 individuals, even if you didn't know them by	8 Board of Trustees had been more involved?
9 name, did you know if any of those other	9 MR. WISEMAN:
individuals have been involved in the initial	10 A. No, no, and I apologize for that.
treatment or initial testing of the patients	11 MS. NEWBURY:
between 1997 and 2005?	12 Q. Thank you, those are all the questions I have,
13 MR. WISEMAN:	thank you, Mr. Wiseman.
14 A. I don't know.	14 THE COMMISSIONER:
15 MS. NEWBURY:	15 Q. Thank you. Ms. Taylor?
16 Q. There was some discussion yesterday regarding	16 MR. ROSS WISEMAN, EXAMINATION BY MS. PAMELA TAYLOR
rules of engagement and I believe it was your	17 MS. TAYLOR:
evidence yesterday morning that both the Board	18 Q. Good morning, Minister Wiseman.
and the department were more actively involved	19 MR. WISEMAN:
in the ER/PR matter than they would have been	20 A. Good morning.
21 historically, did I understand your evidence	21 MS. TAYLOR:
22 correctly in that regard?	22 Q. My name is Pam Taylor. I'm here on behalf of
23 MR. WISEMAN:	the breast cancer testing class action group.
24 A. I think theafter we started having	24 I just have a couple of questions for you.
discussions around this issue in May of 2007,	Now I want to go back to information that you
•	
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I can speak to that period of time, you know,	provided yesterday and Ms. Newbury was just
there was a, the period that followed in the	2 asking you some questions on it. The audit
3 preceding week or following weeks and then	3 that's being done, the contact that was made
4 since the involvement with the Centre for	4 to patients through physicians and now an
5 Health Information, you know, that continuous	5 audit is being done to determine whether or
6 dialogue that would have occurred as to how	6 not patients actually received contact from
7 things were unfolding and discussing what, you	7 physicians, so whether they actually received
8 know, normally the operations of the health	8 information on their test results. Who
9 authority is left to the authorities and we	9 initiated this audit process?
wouldn't have people in the department, you	10 MR. WISEMAN:
know, engaged in a file on a day-to-day basis	11 A. It came about as a result of athe work that
working through it ordinarily andbut that's	the Centre for Health Information was doing
happened in this particular case here.	and when they start, they identified the
14 MS. NEWBURY:	method of contact which was my comment a
15 Q. Okay, and was the Board also more actively	moment ago, and then a lot of it, a number of
involved in these matters than they would	them, I think the number was around 400, had
historically have been?	been contacted by providing information to the
18 MR. WISEMAN:	family physician or treating physician and
19 A. The Board meaning the Board of Trustees?	they, in turn, would pass on the results to
20 MS. NEWBURY:	20 the patient. It was either the first part of
21 Q. Yes, that's what I understood you to mean	21 this week or the last part of last week, a
22 yesterday.	circumstance arose where we became aware that
100 MD WHOEMAN	22 a nationt upon visiting their physician

24

25

a patient, upon visiting their physician,

became aware that the results hadn't been

earlier communicated and that came to our

A. And I apologize for any confusion that I may

have created as a result of my reference to a

23 MR. WISEMAN:

24

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attention. So that prompted then a further		you by Ms. Chaytor. This is an
discussion around that method of communica		eries of e-mails actually at
3 in the beginning. And that conversation		e-mail from Tansy Mundon to
4 included, you know, a comfort level, exploring	_	son and yourself, June 6th, 2007
5 a comfort level that would exist if it	_	me it seems that what
6 happened to one, you know, could there have		was a question, a question
been others? And the fact that it happened		an MHA was asking you about
8 once and it's now become, we become awar	_	Eastern Health was misleading
9 it, came to our attention, there was a quick		h respect to a full page ad
recognition that we now need to confirm with	_	ime, said that they had
the other, whatever the number is, that this		atients and their doctors of
in fact did occur and communication did		l test results. Now, it looks
actually happen. Because prior to that, there		undon, who we know was the
was a reliance on that method.	14 Communication 15 MR. WISEMAN:	ns Director in your department.
15 MS. TAYLOR:		
Q. So is that something that came from your		
department or Robert Thompson or is that	17 MS. TAYLOR:	. 1 C D11 d
something that Eastern Health initiated? I'm	18 Q. Had contacte	*
19 just trying to understand?		ons Director in Eastern Health and
20 MR. WISEMAN:		ne response, it was confirmed at
21 A. It came, you know, I think it came about as a		once a letter was sent to
result ofit was found and came about as a		garding patients, that they
result of the work done by the centre and the	_	ith individual physicians to
decision to move forward with the	_	atients were contacted. So
25 reverification came about as a result of a	25 obviously that	s now being questioned.
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1 discussion between Robert Thompson and Easter	1 MR. WISEMAN:	
2 Health.	2 A. Yes.	
3 MS. TAYLOR:	3 MS. TAYLOR:	
4 Q. So there isn't a comfort level that in fact	4 Q. So what data	is available to show that
5 everyone received contact through their	5 patients, that	that follow up actually
6 physicians at that time, in terms of their	6 occurred at tha	t time? Is there any data?
7 test results?	7 MR. WISEMAN:	
8 MR. WISEMAN:	8 A. In June of '06'	?
9 A. Well now we understand that there was one and	9 MS. TAYLOR:	
the concern is there may be another and we	10 Q. June of '07.	
need to better understand that. So we now	11 MR. WISEMAN:	
need to reverify more directly with the	12 A. I'm sorry, Jun	e of '07. I couldn't answer
patients involved to ensure that that did		the people who have been
14 happen.	_	e database may be able to confirm
15 MS. TAYLOR:		cumentation that they may have
16 Q. Now I've heard reported in the media that that		know, from where I sit today,
number is approximately 420. Does that sound	-	re pointing out something that
right to you or do you have any information on		in 2006 that says that Eastern
19 that?		presentative of Eastern Health
20 MR. WISEMAN:	_	ig that they, in fact, had
21 A. Yeah, I said four something, if I'm not	I	gh to confirm that the physician
mistaken it was around that number.		act and I guess, which I'm saying
23 MS. TAYLOR:		we now know that there was at
	-	
124 O Okay if I can ask the Registrar to pull up	24 least one that t	hat didn't hannen to And I'm
Q. Okay, if I can ask the Registrar to pull up 0231, Exhibit 0231. Now this has already been		hat didn't happen to. And I'm view that if it happened to

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one, it may have happened to others and as a	no way to do a reconciliation. So my question
2 result of that and because of that, that now	2 is, looking at that, how and I'm wondering if
3 that verification is taking place and will	you've asked yourself this question, how could
4 start now.	4 Eastern Health have had confidence previously
5 MS. TAYLOR:	if when your own people go in and look at that
6 Q. And you had said a moment ago 2006, but we	data, and they can't reconcile it, they can't
7 know it's 2007, just a correction.	7 figure out what's happened, how could Eastern
8 MR. WISEMAN:	8 Health have been confident that in fact
9 A. I'm sorry, yes.	9 everybody had been informed when they were
10 MS. TAYLOR:	giving those assertions to the public and to
11 Q. We've also heard from patients, the Commission	11 your department?
has heard from patients and I believe at least	12 MR. WISEMAN:
one has testified that she wasn't aware that	13 A. That's a good question, I've asked myself that
there was a letter in her file. Are you aware	14 many times.
of that? That's Ms. Beverly Green?	15 MS. TAYLOR:
16 MR. WISEMAN:	16 Q. Have you come up with any answers?
17 A. I'm not aware of that testimony.	17 MR. WISEMAN:
18 MS. TAYLOR:	18 A. No, because there is no answer.
19 Q. So that would be another person. She has	19 MS. TAYLOR:
testified to that effect that she didn't find	20 Q. Well, I'll just go back to a question on
out until later that that information was	21 Exhibit P-0231. Now the question that was
there. So that's at least another person.	being asked at that time that precipitated
23 MR. WISEMAN:	23 that series of e-mails was an MHA asking
24 A. Yes.	whether or not Eastern Health had mislead the
25 MS. TAYLOR:	public in its ad at that time and we have gone
Page 70	1
1 Q. So at that point, obviously that information	through that ad and I believe that you've
2 wasn't correct?	2 answered to that ad, at that time there was a
3 MR. WISEMAN:	reference to all patients having been
4 A. The point in time of this e-mail?	4 contacted. It was an ad in June and you had
5 MS. TAYLOR:	said that that was inaccurate, you now know
6 Q. In June of '07.	6 that information to be inaccurate. So was
7 MR. WISEMAN:	7 Eastern Health misleading the public at that
8 A. Yes, it would appear now that that was not	8 period of time with the information that they
9 correct.	9 had in their full page ad? And I can pull it
10 MS. TAYLOR:	up if you need to see it again. Were they
11 Q. It was inaccurate.	misleading the public?
12 MR. WISEMAN:	12 MR. WISEMAN:
13 A. Inaccurate, yes.	13 A. I've indicated that the information, as of
14 MS. TAYLOR:	14 today I now know that the information is
15 Q. Now something else that you had given evidence	incorrect. I know it because we've had a team
on was back in the first part of June, '07,	of people who have actually completed a review
that's at the point I think Ms. Chaytor was	and have been able to confirm for us thatand
asking you at what point did you start to lose	they have identified the individuals in
confidence in the information that you had	19 question who have not been notified and
been provided and you had a conversation with	20 they're in that pool. So the information that
21 Robert Thompson. Around that time, people	21 was supplied in that ad and the information
from the department had been sent in to do an	that was communicated to me, during the course
23 overview of the data and I think that you've	23 of the period of last year, particularly from
elaborated on that this morning, but	24 the middle of May up to the first part of

June, was clearly that they all had been. I

25

everything wasn't in one database, there was

now know that they weren't and so the information supplied to me last year was inaccurate. 4 MS.TAYLOR: 5 Q. So wouldn't you say then that that information was misleading? 6 WR. WISEMAN: 8 A. I can say the information was inaccurate. 9 Misleading implies that they intentionally did something and I wouldn't want toI'm looked. 10 Something and I wouldn't want toI'm looked. 11 Speculating what their motivation might have looked. 12 been. 13 MS. TAYLOR: 14 Q. Okay. Now you've said that as Minister of the looked. Popartment of Health and Community Services, you are the spokesperson within the government, but you're also the spokesperson of for government to the people of Newfoundland looked. MR. WISEMAN: 20 MR. WISEMAN: 21 A. On health related issues, yes. 22 MS. TAYLOR: 22 MS. TAYLOR: 23 Q. On health related issues. So you've, on a number of occasions in press conferences, 25 media scrums, questions in the House, a letter looked. The province find themselves in this very difficult circumstance and there's been many people impacted here, many families have been impacted and so, you know, because there was some errors made. Compounding those errors, then you have the piece around the communication and that's been a tremendous source of frustration for me. The anger is because I've, you know, was being provided information that I was repeating continuously for a period of time and I've since found it's inaccurate and I now wonder, as I nowwith the insight I now have and the manner in which the information was gathered, I now recognize that there was no way that they could have told me that. The e-mail you showed me a minute ago that I hadn't seen before, the one that you entered into the evidence and I forget the number of the exhibit, with the comment by Heather Predham, that's information I wasn't privy to last year. And when I read that there this morning, knowing that that was a view shared at that time, and hadn't been clearly shared with me, it further adds to that frustration and anger that	April 15, 2008 Niul	u-Page	inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing
2 information supplied to me last year was 3 inaccurate. 4 MS. TAYLOR: 5 Q. So wouldn't you say then that that information 6 was misleading? 7 MR. WISEMAN: 8 A. I can say the information was inaccurate. 9 Misleading implies that they intentionally did 10 something and I wouldn't want to-I'm 11 speculating what their motivation might have 12 been. 13 MS. TAYLOR: 14 Q. Okay. Now you've said that as Minister of the 15 Department of Health and Community Services, 16 you are the spokesperson within the 17 government, but you're also the spokesperson 18 for government to the people of Newfoundland 19 and Labrador, is that correct? 20 MR. WISEMAN: 21 A. On health related issues, yes. 22 MS. TAYLOR: 23 Q. On health related issues, yes. 24 that was written to the Global Mail, in 25 various instances you have reciterated the 36 statements that all platients were contacted. 4 MR. WISEMAN: 5 A. Yes. 6 MS. TAYLOR: 7 Q. And you now know that to be incorrect? 8 MR. WISEMAN: 9 A. Uh-hn. 10 MS. TAYLOR: 10 And you now know that to be incorrect? 11 Q. Have you given any thoughts, have you gotten 12 angry, have you wondered, you know, you're 13 mgry, have you wondered, you know, you're 14 mw. WISEMAN: 15 A. I you're inquiring about the range of my 16 cmild for the word of the was officials who went 17 mg. WISEMAN: 18 A. I I you're inquiring about the range of my 18 cmild for the wise for many of them. 20 disbelic to shock and a variety of others. 21 And each and every time that I have questioned 22 with it last year, they've gone from anger to 23 disbelic to shock and a variety of others. 24 And each and every time that I have questioned 25 why or how come, you know, you're 26 disbelic to shock and a variety of others. 27 And so day ariety of others. 28 And each and every time that I have questioned 29 with it last year, they've gone from anger to 29 disbelic to shock and a variety of others. 20 And each and every time that I have questioned 21 disbelic to shock and a variety of others. 22 And each and every time that I have quest	Page 7	3	Page 75
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A MS_TAYLOR: 5 So wouldn't you say then that that information 5 So wouldn't you say then that that information 5 So were errors made. Compounding those errors, 6 then you have the piece around the communication and that's been a tremendous Some errors made. Compounding those errors, 6 then you have the piece around the communication and that's been a tremendous Some errors made. Compounding those errors, 6 then you have the piece around the communication and that's been a tremendous Some errors made. Compounding those errors, 6 then you have the piece around the communication and that's been a tremendous Some errors made. Compounding those errors, 6 then you have the piece around the communication and that's been a tremendous Some errors made. Compounding those errors, 6 then you have the piece around the communication and that's been a tremendous Some errors made. Compounding those errors, 6 then you have the piece around the communication and that's been a tremendous Some errors made. Compounding those errors, 6 then you have the piece around the communication and that's been a tremendous Some errors made. Compounding those errors, 6 then you have the piece around the communication and that's been a tremendous Some errors made. Compounding those errors, 6 then you have the piece around the communication and that's been a tremendous Some errors made. Communication and that's been a tremendous Some error fearling that in formation might have Some errors made. Communication and that's been a tremendous Some errors made. Communication and that's been a tremendous Some errors made. Communication and that's been a tremendous Some errors made. Communication might have land that's ene are tremendous Some errors made. Communication and that's been a tremendous Some errors made. Communication and that's been a tremendous Some errors made. Communication and that's been a tremendous Some errors made. Communication and that's been a	2 information supplied to me last year was	2	difficult circumstance and there's been many
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MR. WISEMAN:	5 Q. So wouldn't you say then that that information	5	some errors made. Compounding those errors,
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25 who have been impacted here, the people of the 25 Q. They didn't have the information available to	1		
	25 who have been impacted here, the people of the	25	Q. They didn't have the information available to

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1 be able to make those statements to your or	1	comments that they may make to the public.
2 your department?	2	The fact that they engage in a very public way
3 MR. WISEMAN:	3	to discuss issues relative to our health
4 A. It appears now that they didn't.	4	system or relative to the interest that they
5 MS. TAYLOR:	5	represent, I think it's important to inform
6 Q. Okay, thank you, Minister Wiseman, that's all	6	that kind of public dialogue that we always
7 the questions I have.	7	need to have in our health system. You know,
8 THE COMMISSIONER:	8	I made some comments yesterday around, you
9 Q. Thank you. Mr. Pike?	9	know, I think I may have expressed it or it
10 MR. ROSS WISEMAN, EXAMINATION BY MR. MARK PIKE	10	may have been interpreted as some caution I
11 MR. PIKE:	11	may make about how we express things sometimes
12 Q. Good morning, Mr. Wiseman, my name is Mark	12	and I said I would have had a conversation
Pike and I represent the Newfoundland and	13	with Mr. Ritter of your association, as I have
Labrador Medical Association, which, as you	14	had with others, and so when we engage in that
know, is a group of over one thousand	15	kind of comment, my comment wasn't to suggest
physicians and students across this province.	16	at all that I didn't value that advice or that
The subject has come up before and was raised	17	comment or didn't welcome or suggest that
by my learned friend, counsel for the	18	public criticism should not occur. My comment
Commission, as well as counsel for the	19	would have been that, you know, there will be
20 Canadian Cancer Society about your views as to	20	times when the Medical Association or other
21 the proper role of advocacy groups, such as	21	organizations may make public comment about an
the NLMA in this province and the health care	22	issue that, you know, I may have a different
23 system. What are your views on that?	23	view on and I may share that. If there's a
24 MR. WISEMAN:	24	view that, it's like any discussion or debate
25 A. They play a very important function as they	25	that might happen, you know, we have varying
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1 represent, as you said, the interests of the	1	perspectives on that and frequently in some of
membership, but they also too provide a majo		the meetings I have had with the Medical
input into the health system itself, they have	3	Association, for example, you know, we've
4 expert opinion, they had advice, you know,	4	talked about issues where there's, that there
they have a body of knowledge that only help		is a particular perspective that the
us as a system, helps us as a government,	6	association might have, government may have a
7 helps the authorities to make improvements in		different perspective and we'll have an
8 our health system, so I always welcome their		exchange of ideas and thoughts. If they
comment and their input. And so it's a very	9	happen in a public meeting or happen in a
valuable role they play.	10	public forum, I think it's still healthy, a
11 MR. PIKE:	11	public debate, and I would never say anything
12 Q. So do you agree then that the NLMA and other		or try to discourage that kind of public
groups that I've mentioned and you've referre		criticism of government or public commentary
to in your answer play an important role in	14	and input into the public debate around health
pointing out shortcomings in the health care	15	services, so I welcome it. My comment
16 system?	16	yesterday was in the context of any reference
17 MR. WISEMAN:	17	I would have made to ER/PR and when we talk
18 A. Absolutely, I mean the issue of any	18	about ER/PR, you know, it's one piece of a
organization, whether it's the Medical	19	health system and as we talk about it, it's
20 Association or the Cancer Society or many	20	let's not cast the net to be highly critical
21 others out there who do similar type of	20 21	of an entire health system. So my reference
22 activity and, you know, I value as a Minister,	22	the other day or yesterday would have been in
23 as a government we value the comment, bot		that context, rather than in the broader
24 with the counsel they provide in conversation		context of suggesting that any association or
25 in private meetings we may have, and in	25	any group or any individual, for that matter,
		and strain in any individual 101 1141 1141Cl

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1	shouldn't be more than welcome to express in a	1 M	R. WISEMAN:
2	very public way their comments, concerns,	2	A. Yes, and in doing it in a public way, I mean,
3	criticisms, compliments, any other comments	3	I think it's important if we work collectively
4	they may have about the future of our health	4	together because I think all of us have the
5	system.	5	same objective here. At the end of the day we
6	MR. PIKE:	6	want to make improvements in our health
7	Q. So you'd have no problem in the NLMA pointing	7	system. We want to make sure that we provide
8	out or commenting publicly on issues such as	8	quality service, quality health care, quality
9	gaps in service or the needs of a particular	9	programs are being provided to the people of
10	community or particular area or discipline or	10	Newfoundland and Labrador; I think we all
11	problems or inadequacies with the system,	11	collectively share that view and I welcome any
12	including strengths sometimes?	12	and all contribution to that end.
13	MR. WISEMAN:	13 M	R. PIKE:
14	A. Not at all, in fact just the opposite of that	14	Q. Thank you very much. Commissioner, those are
15	actually, I welcome it. I think it's healthy,	15	my questions.
16	it's healthy for us as a government and it's	16 TF	HE COMMISSIONER:
17	healthy for public information.	17	Q. Thank you, Mr. Pike. Mr. Pritchard?
18	MR. PIKE:	18 M	R. ROSS WISEMAN, EXAMINATION BY MR. ROLF PRITCHARD
19	Q. So any kind of a discouragement or	19 M	R. PRITCHARD:
20	admonishment directed towards any of these	20	Q. Commissioner, just before I commence my
21	groups would not be something that you would	21	questions, I'd like to seek your leave to
22	find desirable?	22	enter documents P-0291 through P-0295.
23	MR. WISEMAN:	23 TF	HE COMMISSIONER:
24	A. No, not at all. I mean, there may be on	24	Q. P-0291 to P-0295, those are the correct
25	occasion where there is a particular comment,	25	numbers?
	Page 82		Page 84
1	Page 82 as I said a moment ago, that might get made	1 M	Page 84
1 2	as I said a moment ago, that might get made		R. PRITCHARD:
2	as I said a moment ago, that might get made sometimes in making public comment that I, as	2	R. PRITCHARD: Q. Yes.
	as I said a moment ago, that might get made sometimes in making public comment that I, as a Minister may have a, or as a government, we	2	R. PRITCHARD: Q. Yes. HE COMMISSIONER:
2 3 4	as I said a moment ago, that might get made sometimes in making public comment that I, as a Minister may have a, or as a government, we may have a different view on and I may want to	2 3 TH 4	R. PRITCHARD: Q. Yes.
2 3 4 5	as I said a moment ago, that might get made sometimes in making public comment that I, as a Minister may have a, or as a government, we may have a different view on and I may want to have a discussion with that association about	2 3 TH 4 5 EX	R. PRITCHARD: Q. Yes. HE COMMISSIONER: Q. Entered. KHIBITS P-0291 THROUGH TO P-0295 ARE ENTERED
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1	to take you to is the end of that section	1	"an authority to which the minister gives
2	which states, I'll read it in its entirety.	2	direction under Section 1 shall comply with
3	It says, "The powers, duties and functions of	3	the directions." That's the part you were
4	the minister include the supervision, control	4	taken to previously. I want to take you now
5	and direction of all matters related to"then	5	beyond that and to invite your comment on a
6	it goes through the list and then it says	6	few sections. I'm going to take you now to
7	"which are not or in so far as they are not	7	Section 7 which says, "An authority is a
8	the responsibility of another minister,	8	corporation without share capital for the
9	agency, body, corporation, board, organization	9	purposes of the Corporation's Act" and
10	or person." I'd like to ask what your	10	Minister, what's your understanding, what are
11	understanding of that section collectively is?	11	the authorities' corporations?
12	MR. WISEMAN:	12 MR. V	WISEMAN:
13	A. As you read it altogether, then obviously it	13 A.	That would be a separate autonomous body,
14	would appear to lay out my responsibilities as	14	separate legal entity.
15	a minister, the caveat that's included here in		PRITCHARD:
16	this last section that you just read now,		And just moving down now to Section 8, "The
17	would deal with and would have envisaged the	17	Board of Directors: The management and
18	creation of such things as our Regional Health	18	affairs and authority shall be directed by a
19	Authorities and then the Regional Health	19	Board of Trustees appointed by the minister in
20	Authorities have been created as another body	20	accordance with the regulations." So
21	or corporation and would have its own, in this	21	obviously we can glean from that that you
22	case, would have its own regulatory structure	22	appoint the Board, but could you speak
23	and legislation that would then define then	23	generally to that section please?
24	more clearly how that actuallyhow the		WISEMAN:
25	minister's role is divested to that body for		The minister appoints that Board and the Board
	Page 86		Page 88
1	delivery of certain services.	1	then has, you know, obviously becomes the
	MR. PRITCHARD:	2	directors of that corporation and they then
3	Q. Okay, so that contemplates a delegation of	3	would then be responsible to bring around them
4	some of the minister's power to some other	4	their management team to run the day-to-day
5	body, a corporation or -	5	affairs of the health authority itself, and
1	MR. WISEMAN:	6	the Board would take a role with respect to
7	A. It would appear, yes. MR. PRITCHARD:	7 9 MD 1	policy governance verses an operational role. PRITCHARD:
9	Q. Okay. Minister, I'd like now to take you to		All right and now let me just take you now to
10	the Regional Health Authorities Act, which I	10	Section 16, "The Responsibility of the
11	believe is document P-0295. Minister, I think	11	Authority: The authority is responsible for
12	you said in your evidence that this has	12	the delivery and administration of health and
13	recently come into force on April 1st and I	13	community services in its health region in
14	think there was some commentary that it was	14	accordance with this Act and the regulations."
15	your understanding that the Regional Health	15	Minister, what's your understanding of that
16	Authorities have acted very much as though	16	section?
17	this has been in power prior to April 1st,	17 MR. V	WISEMAN:
18	2007. And what I'd like to do is to take you	18 A.	Well they, basically the authorities then
19	to a few sections within this Act and then to	19	have, because of the legislative power that
20	invite your comment. I think the part that	20	they've been given and as a government we
21	you were previously shown in here was Section	21	provide them with the budgetary resources to
Laa	Fordish deller should be interested a discouling	100	the state of the second st

23

24

25

be able to provide a range of services that

department, so by way of illustration, if an

authority has a responsibility to provide a

are approved and acknowledged by the

5 which talks about ministerial directions,

"The minister may give directions to an

purposes that are enumerated" and then it says

authority, including direction for the

22

23

24

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P	age 89	Page 91
range of tertiary level services and they are	~	Okay, but could they decide, for example,
2 identified, then the authority is provided the	2	we're going to add an extra theatre or
3 resources in which to do that. How they go	0 3	whatever they now currently call operating
4 about delivering those services and program	ns, 4	rooms?
5 in terms of, you know, the human resource	es 5 MR. V	VISEMAN:
6 they would need, the capital resources they	6 A.	They could make thatthat would be an
7 would need, the equipment and you know,	the 7	operational decision.
8 day-to-day activities of delivering that	8 THE	COMMISSIONER:
9 program or associated with delivering that	t 9 Q.	All right, thank you.
program, and providing that service to the	10 MR. F	PRITCHARD:
people of the province, that would rest with	11 Q.	Minister, I'm going to follow up on that
the authority.	12	question and just seek some clarification
13 MR. PRITCHARD:	13	because Mr. Ottenheimer was testifying, I
14 Q. Okay, and just on that point about you	14	asked him, you know, I think it was clear that
mentioned the budgetary tools, I'm going t	to 15	there was a budgeting process and I think both
take you now to Section 21 -	16	you and your predecessors have spoken to the
17 THE COMMISSIONER:	17	fact that at the end of the day, it's the
18 Q. Before you leave that point, I understood from		department that approves the budget and may
the comments made, I believe by Ms. Dawe		specify that there should be an operating
20 maybe by others, thatbut the question of	20	theatre, somewhere along those lines, but what
21 whether or not a new service gets to be	21	I asked him was this, I said once that money
provided is yours, is it not?	22	is decided upon and it gets voted on and is
23 MR. WISEMAN:	23	part of the budget and then if the money is
24 A. In adepending on thethere's some	24	turned over to the Health Authority, that's
enhancements that could be made to existing	ng 25	probably a good way to put it, what happens
P	age 90	Page 92
programs. We define broadly that there wi	11 1	then? Do they do what they like with the
be a surgical program and internal medicing	ie 2	money or do they have to follow certain
3 will be provided, obstetrical program will be	e 3	constraints? How rigid is that process?
4 provided, but if the authority wanted to	4 MR. V	VISEMAN:
5 enhance some of those programs in son	ne 5 A.	The budgetary process is atwo terminologies
6 fashion, then they have that authority to do	6	in terms of one is a line-by-line budget
7 that, so it's ait would be, in broad terms,	7	process; the other is a global budget process.
8 the range of services to be provided by each	h 8	We don't define, for example, that the
9 authority would be defined by the departme	nt. 9	Regional Health Authority will have a surgical
10 THE COMMISSIONER:	10	program and that you will have five nurses and
11 Q. Okay, so for example, you could say to a	n 11	four surgeons and you will have other supports
authority that in hospital "X" you could hav	e 12	that will be there and here's a salary for
a surgery department and if there is a surger	ry 13	each of them, and if they retire or leave,
department which provides general surgery	and 14	then that salary is gone. What we provide
things like that, can they, for example,	15	them with is a block of money that they say we
decide we're going to add neurosurgery of	or 16	want a surgical program and the cost of that
would the department say, no, neurosurgery	for 17	surgical program will be this much to operate,
this province will be done in a particular	18	so that would be, I use the word "notionally"
institution?	19	so we'll add that to the list and they'll
20 MR. WISEMAN:	20	identify a range of other programs that they
21 A. The latter, we would define that neurosurge	7	will want and will add that to the list. At
22 would be done somewhere else, so they we	ould 22	the end of the day, we will give them, you
provide it in those facilities, as defined by	23	know "X" number hundreds of millions of
24 government.	24	dollars and they will then, you know, provide
25 THE COMMISSIONER:	25	that range of service. But in the normal

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	Page 95
	this the other day, in
	eve Section 4. And Section4
	e lieutenant governor in
	stablish criteria for the
	of government entities as
	one, two, or three government
	You move on into the Act,
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	e categories in Section 5, 6
	ears that Section 5 requires a
•	very three years and then
·	require a less onerous plan.
	ere asked the other day what
	ling was of what level of
	ne Regional Health Authorities
	e you had an opportunity to
the flexibility of being able to discharge 16 look at that issue	e?
patients out of an acute-care hospital back 17 MR. WISEMAN:	
	at that highest level.
decide that they're going to add some money to 19 THE COMMISSIONER:	
	ll ask this question to you
	witness, really, but if you
· · ·	here, if you wouldn't mind,
	nink the lieutenant governor
	e, the lieutenant governor in
25 they may make operational decisions of flowing 25 council shall es	stablish criteria for the
Page 94	Page 96
1 money back and forth like that. But 1 categorization of	£
1 money back and forth like that. But 1 categorization of	of government entities as
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	one, two or three. I'm
2 fundamentally the mandate is to provide a 2 either category	-
fundamentally the mandate is to provide a surgical program and to provide community assuming that w services. And how they actually do that 4 MR. PRITCHARD:	one, two or three. I'm
fundamentally the mandate is to provide a surgical program and to provide community assuming that w services. And how they actually do that 4 MR. PRITCHARD:	one, two or three. I'm
fundamentally the mandate is to provide a surgical program and to provide community assuming that w services. And how they actually do that 4 MR. PRITCHARD:	one, two or three. I'm ould be done by regulation?
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fundamentally the mandate is to provide a surgical program and to provide community assuming that w services. And how they actually do that effectively, that's the management decisions and role that they play as to how they move 6 THE COMMISSIONER:	one, two or three. I'm ould be done by regulation? easonable assumption.
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April 15, 2006 Nit	mu-P	age inquiry on normone Receptor Testing
Page	97	Page 99
1 THE COMMISSIONER:	1	1
2 Q. Thank you.	2	MR. WISEMAN:
3 MR. PRITCHARD:	3	A. The briefing book, as I indicated, is a
4 Q. Minister, I want to take you now, the other	4	
day you were asked some questions about annua		
6 performance reports and I'd like to show you	6	
7 now, document P-0293? And, Minister, can you		
8 tell us what this document is?	8	
9 MR. WISEMAN:	9	
10 A. This would appear to be the annual report,	10	
page from an annual report of Eastern Health.	11	
12 MR. PRITCHARD:	12	. –
13 Q. And, Minister, you were asked the other day if	13	-
this report and I believe there's actually two	14	-
pages excerpted from this report that are	15	
here, made any reference to the ER/PR issue	16	
and I take it that you shared this document	17	
with us because there is a reference to the	18	
19 ER/PR issue?	19	
20 MR. WISEMAN:	20	
21 A. There is, in the second last paragraph there	21	
is a reference here in '06, '07 "that the	22	
estrogen progesterone testing was at the	23	
forefront of media attention and caused great	24	
25 concern for the public."	25	·
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Page		Page 100
1 MR. PRITCHARD:	1	
2 Q. All right, and I'll just show you the second	2	1 1
page. I think in the second column, forth	3	
4 paragraph, there's also a reference?	4	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
5 MR. WISEMAN:	5	
6 A. There is, yes. This page is headed	6	1
7 "Opportunities and Challenges" and it says	7	ε
8 here "Eastern Health has been under increasing	8	1 1
9 public scrutiny due to the internal report,	9	
10 the ER/PR judicial inquiry and class action	10	
lawsuit and the Burin Peninsula radiology	11	MR. PRITCHARD:
review. These issues have undoubtedly shaken	12	, ,
the confidence of the general public in our	13	1
14 health care system."	14	<u>,</u>
15 MR. PRITCHARD:	15	· •
16 Q. Thank you, Minister. Minister, I want to take	16	MR. WISEMAN:
you back now to the start of your ministry	17	1 11
which was in January of 2007 and you were	18	1 0
asked some questions about your briefing book	19	
and whether or not you had read it and so my	20	
21 question to you, just for clarification now,	21	•
did you have occasion in those first months	22	
when you were Minister of Health and Community	23	other areas that if something was happening in
	۱ ـ ۰	a · c · 1.112 1 4 1

25

their area of responsibility, you know, they

would bring that to my attention and we would

Services to read your book or look at it or

what, if anything, did you do with your

24

Thin I	2,2000
	Page 1
1	haveand deal with it appropriately at that
2	time. But the process of bringing to the
3	minister's attention of something, you know, a
4	briefing note becomes one method and as I've
5	already given evidence, you know, back at that
6	time, briefing notes could enter a briefing
7	book without coming to the attention of the
8	minister, so issues that required immediate
9	attention tend to come to the minister's
10	attention via the deputy or one of the ADMs,
11	rather by way of a briefing note that comes
12	across their desks as here is something that
13	you need to turn your attention to day. It
14	tends to come more informally by one of the
15	ADMS or a DM.

16 MR. PRITCHARD:

- Q. One of those issues, I take it, that arose or 17 18 had been around for sometime was the issue of 19 the pathologists' compensation and we have seen in evidence a letter that came about on 20 21 May 16th, 2007, which is Exhibit P-0199 22 please? Now I'm looking at a document in my 23 book that has P-0199 on it, but it's a 24 different document.
- 25 THE COMMISSIONER:

Q. Well, maybe we can resolve that, this is one 1 of ten pages, could this be -2

3 MR. PRITCHARD:

- Q. I'm sorry, you're quite right, Commissioner, I'm looking at page 7, thank you. 5
- 6 THE COMMISSIONER:
- 7 Q. Page 7.
- 8 MR. PRITCHARD:
- 9 Q. Yes, there we go, we live in an age or 10 miracles. Thank you. Minister, you've 11 already spoken about this particular issue and 12 how it was ongoing through that time, so I 13 don't want to take you back through all of 14 that. We've seen Mr. Abbott's name on a lot 15 of the documentation around this particular 16 issue, Minister, what, if any, involvement, 17 direct involvement did you have in this 18 particular matter? 19 MR. WISEMAN:
- 20 A. When there was a report that was commissioned, 21 associated with this issue, there was a report 22 that had been commissioned by government to 23 help them form the amount of the stipend or 24 what kind of compensation would be paid to pathologists and that came into our office 25

sometime around the end of January. You know, 2 this was an issue that I had had some 3 discussion with, with the deputy on because it was an issue that was being discussed between 4 5 ourselves and the Department of Health and Community Services and Treasury Board, who are 6 the arm of government that would deal with 7 8 compensation related issues and any changes that would have been needed to be made, if 9 10 any, to the agreement between government and 11 the Medical Association on physician compensation. So there had been some 12 13 discussion between myself and the deputy on 14 this particular issue with respect to the 15 compensation for pathologists.

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16 MR. PRITCHARD:

17 Q. Okay, and what was your understanding of how 18 that issue was moving along through, you know, 19 January, February, March, April?

20 MR. WISEMAN:

2

21 A. The report itself was, the position, as I 22 understood the process, the department had 23 made representation or put together a position 24 and moved forward to engage Treasury Board in 25 discussion earlier prior to the January report

Page 104 Page 102 coming out, and through that discussion, there 1

was a decision that, you know, this needed to

be examined a little further, some expert 3

opinion needed to be brought into bear and 4 that resulted in the request for that review. 5

And that review was now to help inform what 6

7 might be an appropriate stipend to be paid or

what might be an appropriate compensation, so 8

there was dialogue that occurred between the 9 Department of Health and Community Services 10

11 and Treasury Board on that issue from the

12 period the report came in, until we actually

13 got action.

14 MR. PRITCHARD:

- Q. Okay. Now this particular letter is dated May 15 16th, 2007. This is the notification to Mr. 16
- 17 Abbott from the Treasury Board that this proposal has been approved. 18
- 19 MR. WISEMAN:
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 MR. PRITCHARD:
- Q. I think we've seen in evidence earlier a 22 letter of May 18th, which is the notification 23 from the department to Dr. O'Grady approving 24 25 this.

1	5111 13, 2000 Widit		
	Page 105		Page 107
1	MR. WISEMAN:	1	talking about?
2	A. Yes.	2	MR. WISEMAN:
3	MR. PRITCHARD:	3	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
4	. , 3	4	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
5	1 2	5	,
6		6	\mathcal{E}
7	11th, came out on May 15th, which is the day	7	testing for ER/PR was what was discontinued.
8	before this letter, May 16th.	8	J ,
9	MR. WISEMAN:	9	service within Eastern Health.
10	A. Yes.	10	MR. PRITCHARD:
11	MR. PRITCHARD:	11	Q. Okay, and we've heard in evidence that that
12	Q. Now, was there any impetus to this matter	12	service, particular service I believe was shut
13	being resolved or at least the notification to	13	down in August of 2005. And Minister, what's
14	the department from Treasury Board on May	14	your understanding of who shut that service
15	16th, as the results of the events of May	15	down in August of 2005?
16	15th? Is there any connection with that at	16	MR. WISEMAN:
17	all?	17	A. That would have been Eastern Health's
18	MR. WISEMAN:	18	decision, as I understand it. They would have
19	A. It's coincidental, I mean the letter happens	19	been in a position, you know, they had the
20	to be on the 16th. As I just laid out, there	20	expertise to make that judgment call that it
21	was a process that had started back well	21	wasn't safe and they shut it down.
22	before the, I don't know the exact date, I	22	MR. PRITCHARD:
23	wasn't around, but the report that came into	23	Q. And whose decision was it to reopen that
24	my office from the outside consultant was	24	service?
25	sometime the end of January and so you can	25	MR. WISEMAN:
	Page 106		Page 108
1		1	A. It would have been Eastern Health.
2	that preceded that date, obviously, and then	2	MR. PRITCHARD:
3	the report came in and there was a dialogue	3	Q. And issues such as quality control in
4	taken place between the end of January and the	4	particular labs, quality assurance, are those
5	middle of May between Treasury Board and the	1	mottons of which the demontment would normally
6		5	matters of which the department would normally
	Department of Health as to what that should be	5 6	
7		6	*
7 8	and what might be a reasonable conclusion to	6	be concerned? MR. WISEMAN:
ı	and what might be a reasonable conclusion to the issue, so dialogue just didn't prop up	6 7	be concerned? MR. WISEMAN: A. These are matters that, the word "concerned"
8	and what might be a reasonable conclusion to the issue, so dialogue just didn't prop up between May 15th and then overnight, you know,	6 7 8	be concerned? MR. WISEMAN: A. These are matters that, the word "concerned" obviously we would want to make sure that
8 9	and what might be a reasonable conclusion to the issue, so dialogue just didn't prop up between May 15th and then overnight, you know, come to a conclusion and resolve the issue.	6 7 8 9	be concerned? MR. WISEMAN: A. These are matters that, the word "concerned" obviously we would want to make sure that there's quality programs out there and there's
8 9 10	and what might be a reasonable conclusion to the issue, so dialogue just didn't prop up between May 15th and then overnight, you know, come to a conclusion and resolve the issue. Given the fact that it had been on the go for	6 7 8 9 10	be concerned? MR. WISEMAN: A. These are matters that, the word "concerned" obviously we would want to make sure that there's quality programs out there and there's a quality assurance program, so there is a
8 9 10 11	and what might be a reasonable conclusion to the issue, so dialogue just didn't prop up between May 15th and then overnight, you know, come to a conclusion and resolve the issue. Given the fact that it had been on the go for a long time, it was just timely to have it	6 7 8 9 10 11	be concerned? MR. WISEMAN: A. These are matters that, the word "concerned" obviously we would want to make sure that there's quality programs out there and there's a quality assurance program, so there is a concern, but in terms of having a
8 9 10 11 12 13	and what might be a reasonable conclusion to the issue, so dialogue just didn't prop up between May 15th and then overnight, you know, come to a conclusion and resolve the issue. Given the fact that it had been on the go for a long time, it was just timely to have it	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	be concerned? MR. WISEMAN: A. These are matters that, the word "concerned" obviously we would want to make sure that there's quality programs out there and there's a quality assurance program, so there is a concern, but in terms of having a responsibility to maintain quality control
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8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	and what might be a reasonable conclusion to the issue, so dialogue just didn't prop up between May 15th and then overnight, you know, come to a conclusion and resolve the issue. Given the fact that it had been on the go for a long time, it was just timely to have it resolved in any event. MR. PRITCHARD: Q. Okay, Minister you were asked some questions about, we've used the term the reopening of the lab, although I suppose that's not technically correct, in February and what your	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	be concerned? MR. WISEMAN: A. These are matters that, the word "concerned" obviously we would want to make sure that there's quality programs out there and there's a quality assurance program, so there is a concern, but in terms of having a responsibility to maintain quality control programs and to do the monitoring and to make the corrective action when trends are identified as being problematic, then that would be an operational issue that the
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8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	and what might be a reasonable conclusion to the issue, so dialogue just didn't prop up between May 15th and then overnight, you know, come to a conclusion and resolve the issue. Given the fact that it had been on the go for a long time, it was just timely to have it resolved in any event. MR. PRITCHARD: Q. Okay, Minister you were asked some questions about, we've used the term the reopening of the lab, although I suppose that's not technically correct, in February and what your level of awareness was around that, and you know, whether or not you had put to your Dr. Banerjee's report and the table of what had	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	be concerned? MR. WISEMAN: A. These are matters that, the word "concerned" obviously we would want to make sure that there's quality programs out there and there's a quality assurance program, so there is a concern, but in terms of having a responsibility to maintain quality control programs and to do the monitoring and to make the corrective action when trends are identified as being problematic, then that would be an operational issue that the authorities would deal with. MR. PRITCHARD: Q. Now, Minister, just on that issue of the ER/PR service in the lab, I think you indicated in your evidence that you had a meeting on May
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	and what might be a reasonable conclusion to the issue, so dialogue just didn't prop up between May 15th and then overnight, you know, come to a conclusion and resolve the issue. Given the fact that it had been on the go for a long time, it was just timely to have it resolved in any event. MR. PRITCHARD: Q. Okay, Minister you were asked some questions about, we've used the term the reopening of the lab, although I suppose that's not technically correct, in February and what your level of awareness was around that, and you know, whether or not you had put to your Dr. Banerjee's report and the table of what had been done in the lab and what hadn't. But just in the context of that, first of all,	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	be concerned? MR. WISEMAN: A. These are matters that, the word "concerned" obviously we would want to make sure that there's quality programs out there and there's a quality assurance program, so there is a concern, but in terms of having a responsibility to maintain quality control programs and to do the monitoring and to make the corrective action when trends are identified as being problematic, then that would be an operational issue that the authorities would deal with. MR. PRITCHARD: Q. Now, Minister, just on that issue of the ER/PR service in the lab, I think you indicated in your evidence that you had a meeting on May 15th, but
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	and what might be a reasonable conclusion to the issue, so dialogue just didn't prop up between May 15th and then overnight, you know, come to a conclusion and resolve the issue. Given the fact that it had been on the go for a long time, it was just timely to have it resolved in any event. MR. PRITCHARD: Q. Okay, Minister you were asked some questions about, we've used the term the reopening of the lab, although I suppose that's not technically correct, in February and what your level of awareness was around that, and you know, whether or not you had put to your Dr. Banerjee's report and the table of what had been done in the lab and what hadn't. But just in the context of that, first of all, your understanding now, it's not the lab that	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	be concerned? MR. WISEMAN: A. These are matters that, the word "concerned" obviously we would want to make sure that there's quality programs out there and there's a quality assurance program, so there is a concern, but in terms of having a responsibility to maintain quality control programs and to do the monitoring and to make the corrective action when trends are identified as being problematic, then that would be an operational issue that the authorities would deal with. MR. PRITCHARD: Q. Now, Minister, just on that issue of the ER/PR service in the lab, I think you indicated in your evidence that you had a meeting on May 15th, but

April 15, 2008 Mul	ti-Page TM Inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing
Page 109	Page 111
1 Tilley were present and you sort of were	1 MR. PRITCHARD:
2 briefed on this issue as it was unfolding at	2 Q. Okay and one of the things you said, you
3 that time, is that correct?	didn't spend a lot of time at that meeting on
4 MR. WISEMAN:	4 the 15th taking about what had happened back
5 A. I was, that's true.	5 in 2005 because, you know, that had happened
6 MR. PRITCHARD:	6 and there was nothing you could do about it at
7 Q. And I think it was your evidence that you had	7 that point. You've been asked some questions
8 spoken about a number of things and one of	by my colleagues, however, about the decision
9 them was that you were given to understand by	9 that was made by Mr. Ottenheimer and I want to
Mr. Tilley at that time that all of the	ask you, Mr. Ottenheimer made a statement when
recommendations in respect of the lab had been	11 he was here and he said that one of the things
implemented.	that he had been told in that period of time,
13 MR. WISEMAN:	July and August of 2005, one of the factors
14 A. That was the impression I had.	that had come up at the meetings, was on the
15 MR. PRITCHARD:	one hand there was his agitation to disclose,
16 Q. Okay, now when you were taken through the	but on the other hand, people were saying,
chart the other day, Dr. Banerjee's chart and	well, you know, we don't have all the
we saw some of the things had been	information, we don't have all the facts at
implemented, some of them were in the process,	this point in time; therefore, we need to
some of them weren't agreed with. Did you	wait. And he made this statement when he was
21 have that kind of a discussion about it with	sitting there, that in his view, it would have
22 Mr. Tilley? Did he indicate, you know, there	been preferable to disclose earlier, even if
23 were some shades to this, that some things had	all the information were not available. Is
been done, some things had not been done, some	that your view, Minister?
25 things were in the works or was it more of	25 MR. WISEMAN:
Page 110	Page 112
just a blanket statement, do you recall?	1 A. I think I've been pretty clear on my view of
2 MR. WISEMAN:	the events of the fall of 2005 or the summer
3 A. Blanket statement. The grid that I was shown	of 2005, that there should have been a full
4 the other day wasn't something that I had in	4 disclosure at that time.
5 my office until sometime around the end of May	5 MR. PRITCHARD:

- that that profile had been submitted, at least 6

7 to me.

8 MR. PRITCHARD:

- Q. Now, in terms of your officials, for example, 9 your deputy minister was Mr. John Abbott, did 10
- 11 you ever ask or have occasion to ask Mr.
- Abbott when he became aware of the fact that 12
- 13 there was a discrepancy between what the
- 14 department had been told on November 23rd,
- 2006 would be disclosed and what was actually 15
- disclosed on December 11th, 2006? Did you ask 16
- 17 him when he became aware of that discrepancy?

18 MR. WISEMAN:

- A. I don't recall ever asking that question 19 directly like that. 20
- 21 MR. PRITCHARD:
- Q. Did you make that inquiry of any other 22
- officials in your department? 23
- 24 MR. WISEMAN:
- A. No, I did not.

O. I wonder if the Minister could be shown 6 document P-0291? 7

8 THE COMMISSIONER:

Q. Mr. Pritchard, we've kind of gone past the time for normal break. 10

11 MR. PRITCHARD:

Q. Yes, we have.

13 THE COMMISSIONER:

14 Q. Would you prefer to have the break now or do 15 you want to finish your questioning before we do that? I'll leave that to your judgment. 16

17 MR. PRITCHARD:

18 Q. I have a few more questions, so perhaps this 19 is a suitable time to take a break.

20 THE COMMISSIONER:

21 Q. All right, we'll take fifteen minutes.

(RECESS)

23 THE COMMISSIONER:

Q. Please be seated. Mr. Pritchard. 24

25 MR. PRITCHARD:

	i ruge inquiry on mone receptor resums
Page 113	Page 115
1 Q. Thank you, Commissioner. Minister, just	it gives the Commission of Inquiry or a part-
2 before I asked you about the documents on the	2 two inquiry and then further down it talks
3 screen, just going back now, one last question	about non-legislative reviews and independent
4 about the meeting that you had with your	4 review and a consultant review. Now again,
officials and Mr. Tilley on the 15th, you	5 you were not a party to this particular e-
6 indicated in your evidence that at some point	6 mail, but Minister, was that a discussion of
you had come to understand from Mr. Abbott	7 those sort of options? Were you aware of that
8 that the external reviews that had been done	8 type of discussion taking place?
9 were reviews that were protected under the	9 MR. WISEMAN:
Evidence Act and I wasn't clear, was it your	10 A. There was that discussion, yes, I don't recall
evidence that that was an issue that was	seeing the document you're showing me, but
discussed at the May 15th meeting or was that	that discussion, because I had indicated
another occasion that Mr. Abbott had told you	earlier that we had contemplated a review and
14 that?	we were exploring options, I think I made that
15 MR. WISEMAN:	reference that that surfaced probably as early
<u>^</u>	
occasion. I don't recall that being the topic of conversation aton the 15th.	
	18 MR. PRITCHARD:
19 MR. PRITCHARD:	19 Q. All right and Minister, at the end of the day,
Q. Would that have been before the 15th or after?	obviously the decision was made to go with one
21 MR. WISEMAN:	of those particular options, a Commission of
22 A. Oh, after the 15th, yes.	22 Inquiry.
23 MR. PRITCHARD:	23 MR. WISEMAN:
Q. Okay, and Minister on the screen now is a	24 A. Yes.
document P-0291. It's an attachment, actually	25 MR. PRITCHARD:
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
Page 114	
Page 114 1 that I want to take you through but this e-	Page 116 1 Q. What is your understanding about why that
Page 114	Page 116
Page 114 1 that I want to take you through but this e-	Page 116 1 Q. What is your understanding about why that
Page 114 that I want to take you through but this e- mail, in any event, is from Robert Thompson to	Page 116 1 Q. What is your understanding about why that 2 particular option was picked in
Page 114 that I want to take you through but this e- mail, in any event, is from Robert Thompson to a series of individuals. You are not one of	Page 116 1 Q. What is your understanding about why that 2 particular option was picked in 3 contradistinction to these other options?
Page 114 that I want to take you through but this e- mail, in any event, is from Robert Thompson to a series of individuals. You are not one of them, so I don't expect that you have seen	Page 116 1 Q. What is your understanding about why that 2 particular option was picked in 3 contradistinction to these other options? 4 MR. WISEMAN:
Page 114 that I want to take you through but this e- mail, in any event, is from Robert Thompson to a series of individuals. You are not one of them, so I don't expect that you have seen this e-mail. It's really the subject matter	Page 116 1 Q. What is your understanding about why that 2 particular option was picked in 3 contradistinction to these other options? 4 MR. WISEMAN: 5 A. It was decided that this kind of an inquiry
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April 15, 2008	runu-Page inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing
Page	Page 119
1 been contacted and you were shown public	word "mislead" because of the motive that that
2 statements that you had made that all patients	2 imputed. Can you explain what you mean by
3 had been contacted and you spoke about that.	3 that, please?
4 And, Minister, your belief that all patients	4 MR. WISEMAN:
5 had been contacted emanates from where?	5 A. Well, I mean, obviously I canI'd makeI can
6 MR. WISEMAN:	6 acknowledge statements of fact if I knew
7 A. From Eastern Health, they were, you know, very	7 something or didn't know something or
8 clear through that period that they had made	8 information that was shared with me as being
9 contact with all patients and I wasmy public	and I repeated what was shared with me. The
comments were base on that reassurance from	basis for why they shared that information
Eastern Health. As I said before, you know,	with me or thewhy they didn't share
that was veryI was emphatic each time it	something else or why they didn't qualify the
was, in fact we had an exhibit shown this	information they gave me, just I would have to
morning where in fact the communications'	speculate as to why that would be. And if
director was even suggesting that thethe	that, one of the speculations is to speculate
physicians who were supposed to have made	about whether or not someone mislead me or
contact, that was even confirmed, so that	not, I'm not in a position tothat's caused
level of reassurance kept coming to suggest	me to speculate and Ibut I can only speak to
that that contact had already beenalways	the facts as I understand them.
been made. So with that in mind, I made my	20 MR. PRITCHARD:
21 comments.	21 Q. Okay. So fair enough then, you don'tyou're
22 MR. PRITCHARD:	not suggesting you were mislead by Eastern
23 Q. And, Minister, yesterday you were asked	Health. But whether it was inadvertence or
questions by one of my colleagues, Mr.	24 whatever the reason, do you have an
25 Simmons, about your understanding about some	25 understanding now of why the information that
	Page 120 you were given was not factually correct?
of the difficulties that Eastern Health had in terms of the records coming from different	1 you were given was not factually correct? 2 MR. WISEMAN:
-	3 A. I mean, I now have an understanding of the
hospitals and collected on different systems over different times and how far back some of	4 challenges that the Centre for Health
those records dated. When you were told, and	Information is having on trying to reconcile the numbers and so I can understand now the
6 the word you used was "emphatic" that all	
7 patients had been contacted, were you made	7 challenges that they would have had in pulling
8 aware of those qualifications?	8 together the information. But I can't
9 MR. WISEMAN:	9 understand why someone would tell me
10 A. There were no qualifications at all to those	emphatically that something was, in fact, the
kinds of statements. The qualifications	case, without providing me with some qualifier
started to surface, and I just forget the date	if they, in fact, understood that there was
now, but it was shown to me yesterday, an e-	some qualifiers needed to be provided to put
mail that was around the first week or so of	the information in some kind of context.
June where there was, Robert Thompson was, you	
know, indicating that they're now starting to	Q. Okay. So onceI think you mentioned earlier
17 qualify or provide some qualifiers to the	there's an e-mail exchange and some discussion
document, the information that they were	with Robert Thompson and there's an expression
supplying, but prior to that there was no	of uncertainty about the numbers that you're
qualifier to the statements at all, they were	getting and the response to that uncertainty
pretty emphatic that everybody had been	is to do what?
22 contacted.	22 MR. WISEMAN:
23 MR. PRITCHARD:	A. Well, what we did was we, just so we could get
Q. Now, earlier this morning, Minister, I think	a sense of, you know, howwhere this
you said that you didn't like the use of the	information was coming from and how they were

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Page 121 recording it, we had two officials from the 1 1 2 Department of Health and Community Services 2 visit Eastern Health to start looking at some 3 3 of the documentation that was actually being 4 4 used to supply information to the department. 5 5 6 And as a result of those two officials going 6 7 in and spending a little bit of time there 7 looking at what was in place and what 8 8 information had been documented and how it had 9 9 10 been documented, they came out and said, you 10 11 know, we don't have the ability to start to 11 12 reconcile this and the information that we saw 12 13 is too incomplete and the information that we 13 saw would not give us the ability to be able 14 14 15 to reconcile these numbers in any fashion, so 15 16 it requires a much different, a much larger 16 task. These individuals weren't people who 17 17 were--you know, they have some, you know, 18 18 sense of background in the department and in 19 19 managing files and bring a certain expertise 20 20 to play, but they're not experts in data 21 21 management and they would have just reviewed 22 22 documentation to see if it would have gleaned 23 23 any--would have provided them with any kind of 24 24 insight and gleaned some information from it. 25 25

yesterday, you know, what was in that release that went out in February 22nd which talked about the, you know, designating a person to be--the point person to be responsible for it, putting data management people in place to insure that we had good data collection and an ability to be able to verify and audit the information that would come out of this kind of a process. I also went on to elaborate some of the other pieces that we've added to that since then in terms of the feedback loop back into the Department of Health and Community Services and issues around coordination if there's more than one authority involved. So in terms of an approach to managing an event like this, should it arise, we've started to address some of those issues through that process. On the broader issue and some of the issues around ER/PR, you know, the mandatory accreditation of laboratory services I think will help strengthen the, some of the quality control pieces that we've planned in our labs. And there's some other issues that we talked about with respect to, you know, looking at across Page 124

Page 122

1 MR. PRITCHARD:

O. Minister, we know that we've heard in evidence 2 that, you know, these events are the genesis 3 of the Newfoundland Centre for Health 4 5 Information being tasked to produce this database and we heard from Mr. Simmons about 6 Eastern Health's interest in that project, as 7 8 well and we have now had the opportunity to 9 view the fruits of some of that work. But as time has evolved and you have become aware of 10 11 the difficulties that have lead to the 12 necessity for this database what have you done, what, if anything, have you done or the 13 department done to try and address those 14 15 problems to see that this situation doesn't

17 MR. WISEMAN:

16

arise again?

A. Well, one of the--the couple of things we've, 18 19 back in February we made some announcements about some investments we want to make in 20 21 information management, Eastern Health \$2.1 22 We've also, from a policy perspective, insured that in future events 23 such as this there's a very different process 24 25 put in place, and I think I read in the record

our four authorities some of the things we're

doing with respect to quality assurance and
 quality programs through a quality network

4 that we'll put in place now to start doing a

5 profile of what a current--is best practice

from a quality perspective in our authorities.

7 MR. PRITCHARD:

Q. Okay. And could we have a look now at document P-0128, page 60, please, page 61, please? Minister, this is the announcement, I think, that you're referring to. And -

12 MR. WISEMAN:

13 A. Yes.

14 MR. PRITCHARD:

15 Q. At the bottom of the page, this page 2--sorry,

just go back a page there. Here we go, this

is the announcement here. And then we have the backgrounder?

19 MR. WISEMAN:

20 A. Um-hm.

21 MR. PRITCHARD:

22

23

24

25

Q. There's a couple of items in the backgrounder, so the first item is the 1.3 million. Can you-well, it says, "The Provincial Government is investing 2.7 million." Can you just explain

Ap	rii 15, 2008 - Wiuit	1-1 a	ige inquiry on normone keceptor resung
	Page 125		Page 127
1	what that is all about?	1	of ER/PR testing throughout this process."
2	MR. WISEMAN:	2	And then one of the recipients of that e-mail,
3	A. That's the total investment that we've made in	3	I believe, is Elizabeth Matthews. And she
4	response to the issue to what we've learned	4	makes some editorial comments about the middle
5	from the ER/PR issue that we've been dealing	5	of the page, she says, "My only comment would
6	with in the last, well, since May of last	6	be in the second paragraph," she has some
7	year. And it itemizes a variety of	7	editorial suggestions. And then that's
8	initiatives which is 1.3 for Eastern Health to	8	forwarded on and someone else apparently
9	consolidate clinical information systems.	9	agrees with Elizabeth Matthews' comments.
10	There's \$500,000 to the other regional health	10	Minister, is this normal for the Premier's
11	authorities to conduct an information	11	office and Department of Health and Community
12	management capacity assessment. There's a	12	Services to be so involved in editing an
13	\$270,000 allocation for new data management	13	Eastern Health advertisement or news release?
14	personnel. It goes on to talk about the		MR. WISEMAN:
15	policy that I just talked about with respect	15	A. No, this would be, in fact, the department
16	to the, you know, how we handle adverse events	16	itself wouldn't normally be involved in
17	such as this in the future. It goes on to	17	editing any of that kind of stuff that would
18	talk about \$175,000 investment for Eastern	18	have come out of Eastern Health, so definitely
19	Health to implement a training and quality	19	the Premier's office would not normally be
20	assurancetraining and education in quality	20	involved in this kind of editing process.
21	assurance activities in the IHC area of the		MR. PRITCHARD:
22	lab. And this funding will be allowed toor	22	Q. Okay. So what reason would there be for this
23	provided, rather, for pathologists and	23	level of involvement in this particular
24	technologists to participate in relevant	24	instance?
25	training programs each year. And it'll also		MR. WISEMAN:
	Page 126		Page 128
1	allow for external reviewers to visit Eastern	1	A. I think the, you know, this speaks to the
2	Health to review this laboratory, this area of	2	concern that government has around the, you
3	the laboratory. And it also talks about a	3	know, what information was being communicated
4	\$100,000 investment that will be used to help	4	to the public at this time and making sure
5	start a process to get the mandatory	5	that, you know, whatever, you know, we've
6	accreditation started for the diagnostic	6	what we're saying reflects what was known at
7	services.	7	that particular time. And so this, the ad
	MR. PRITCHARD:	8	that we've got here that's been in question is
9	Q. Okay.	9	a reflection of what government understood to
1	MR. WISEMAN:	10	be the position of both Eastern Health at that
111	A. So that's the kind of, the details surrounding	11	particular point.
12	that dollar figure that you just pointed out.		MR. PRITCHARD:
1	MR. PRITCHARD:	13	Q. Okay. Now, I want to ask a few questions
14	Q. Okay. Minister, I'd like now to show you an	14	about conversations that you may or may not
15	e-mail that is document P-0226. Minister,	15	have had with some people. Let me start by
16	this is an e-mail that we saw the other day.	16	asking, since this matter, I guess, became
17	I'll just go to the bottom to sort of take you	17	emerged in the news for yourself on May 15th,
111	· · ·	18	have you had occasion to discuss it with the
118	lin inrollen it to give voll some context here		
18 19	up through it to give you some context here. First of all, the department's communications		•
19	First of all, the department's communications	19	Premier and what would be the nature of those
19 20	First of all, the department's communications person, Tansy, she's forwarding on a note it	19 20	Premier and what would be the nature of those discussions?
19 20 21	First of all, the department's communications person, Tansy, she's forwarding on a note it says, "Please see attached ad developed by	19 20 21	Premier and what would be the nature of those discussions? MR. WISEMAN:
19 20	First of all, the department's communications person, Tansy, she's forwarding on a note it	19 20	Premier and what would be the nature of those discussions?

25

in the public domain, an issue that we've

talked about intensely within our Cabinet.

newspapers next week. Their purpose is to

advise the public that patients were informed

24

Apri	115, 2008 Mult	l-F	age Inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing
	Page 129		Page 131
1	And it's a conversation that I've with the	1	A. No, my point is I just don't recall.
2	Premier on any number of occasions in terms	2	MR. PRITCHARD:
3	of, you know, the detail that we went through	3	Q. You just don't recall, okay. And I think that
4	last year in May, since that time in terms of	4	you were shown a particular e-mail that you
5	commentary about, you know, the progress we're	5	
6	making with the database that Robert is doing	6	
7	or some issues around communication that might	7	
8	be occurring and comments that I may be making	8	And what I really wanted to ask you about was
9	with respect to the process. You know,	9	your experience as parliamentary secretary.
10	there's been, we've had some conversations	10	Are you in a position to off any comment to
11	around some public comments that have been	11	how your experience a parliamentary secretary
12	made around government's involvement with	12	would compare with others, were you treated as
13	this. For example, very recently there was a,	13	the parliamentary secretary different than
14	couple of weeks ago, week or so ago I had	14	other parliamentary secretaries or was it
15	occasion where I was, you know, I had called a	15	typical?
16	press conference to correct some statements	16	MR. WISEMAN:
17	that had been made with respect to, you know,	17	A. As I've said at the very beginning, the role
18	the Premier's own knowledge and actions, you	18	of parliamentary secretary is not one that's
19	know, so him and I would have had a	19	necessary well defined in a position
20	conversation about that very recently where we	20	description where every single person who
21	had to, you know, the leader of the opposition	21	becomes a parliamentary secretary hears
22	party was making statements that, you know,	22	exactly what you do. You know, the role that
23	accused the Premier of withholding information	23	you have is in support to the Minister and in
24	that he personally had, those sort of	24	support in his role as the Minister of the
25	statements. So him and I would have had a	25	department, and so upon, you know, being
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1	conversation around that, and therefore, you	1	
2	know, that followed, was followed by my, you	2	
3	know, making that kind of corrective statement	3	
4	in public. So we would have had, you know, a	4	
5	range of kind of conversations both from an	5	
6	information, you know, providing information	6	
7	as was the case last year in May to since that	7	~
8	time periodic comments that we would have as a	8	
9	part of other discussions to give him some	9	
10	comment around, you know, what was happening	10	
11	with the work being done or any kind of public	11	
12	comments that were being made about the issue	12	
13	and what government might be doing or not	13	have with that Minister. So it's, you might
14	doing about it.	14	
15 MF	R. PRITCHARD:	15	
16	Q. Okay. Minister, you were also questioned at	16	vary and as my role with each of the
17	some length yesterday about conversations that	17	Ministers, there were slight variations in the
18	you might have had with Mr. Dawe in connection	18	
19	with the Canadian Cancer Society. And I just	19	_
20	want to be clear on that point. You don't	20	MR. PRITCHARD:
21	have any distinction recollection of having	21	Q. And I think you mentioned yesterday, just
22	had a particular conversation or indeed not	22	moving along a bit now, that Robert Thompson
23	having had any particular conversation, you	23	in his capacity, he reports to Executive
24	just don't remember?	24	Council?
25 MF	R. WISEMAN:	25	MR. WISEMAN:

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1	A. Yes, he's secretary to Cabinet.	1	that would have become a part of the
2	MR. PRITCHARD:	2	
3	Q. He doesn't report to the Department of Health	3	
4		4	
5		5	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
6		6	
1 7		7	7 MR. PRITCHARD:
8	^	8	8 Q. Okay. I'm getting down to my last few
	MR. WISEMAN:	9	
10	**	10	
1	MR. PRITCHARD:	11	
12		12	
13		13	• •
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1	MR. WISEMAN:	20	•
22		22	
23		23	
1		1	
24	, & &	1	4 MR. WISEMAN:
25	* *	25	5 A. Well, if we go back to comments I would have
	Page 134		Page 136
1	•	1	j j
2	1	2	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
3	acute care boards. It had a responsibility	3	1 1
4	for the long-term care homes. There would	4	themselves, it's an issue of major interest
5	have been the community support services would	5	and concern to the people of Newfoundland and
6	have been still the responsibility of the	6	1
7	department, but they were, those services and	7	
8	programs were delivered directly by the	8	launched the task force last year and as we
9	department, they weren't delegated out to a	9	moved forward with some of the work of that
10	regional health authority. So fundamentally,	10	task force in trying to gain an understanding
11	you know, within the regional health	11	1
12	authorities their structures have change	12	2 trying to find out who had the information
13	significantly and there's been consolidations,	13	communicated to them. As I became aware of
14	two or three versions of that. But	14	information, I believed it was important and
15	fundamentally acute care services, long-term	15	the people of the province, the message I
16	care services and community-based programmings	16	received loud and clear was that there was a
17	have been a part of the Department of Health	17	desire to have that kind of information when I
18	and Community Services, although it may be	18	was aware of it. So what I've tried to do
19	operationalized by different board structures,	19	throughout that process, both in November,
20	but fundamentally it's been the role of the	20	February and again in March and the other day
21	department since my memory, going back to '85.	21	to, as we became aware of information, to
22	Back 10 or 12 years ago there was some	22	share it. There's a balance sometimes here
23	additional things that came a part of the	23	because one of the things that each time we've
24		24	
25	Services and Early Learning and Child Care,	25	subsequent questions that have followed and,

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1	you know, what other information might we get		1	about people. And we know that there's 1013
2			2	in particular, but there's many more than that
3	unanswered, but it's an evolving process. So		3	because there are many families who have been
4	it was a judgment call to provide it in that		4	impacted by this issue. And for the entire
5	fashion versus wait until at the end of it,		5	province today it's important that they
6	maybe we could be here today summarizing		6	understand what happened here and the lessons
7	everything we've gleaned since last year in		7	we learn from this exercise and that's why
8	July. But there was a judgment call to share		8	this Inquiry is a very important process. And
9			9	it's critical that we have, you know, as we
10	work in progress and if new information became		10	talk about this issue, glean from it as much
11	available, we'd share it at that time. So it		11	as we possibly can so that we can improve on
12	may look like it came out in bits and pieces,		12	what we now do today. Because we have the,
13			13	you know, theI made some comments about
14			14	confidence in our health system, but at the
15	MR. PRITCHARD:		15	same time more importantly we've got, you
16	Q. Minister, you've been good enough to answer m	ıy	16	know, the quality of life, the quality of
17		·	17	health services that are provided to the
18			18	residents of this province, you know, is
19	•		19	something that's uppermost in our minds here.
20	MR. WISEMAN:		20	And anything that we can glean from this
21	A. The last, I mean, hopefully over the last two		21	process to help inform us as a government,
22	and a half days or so, you know, some of my		22	help inform our authorities to make that
23	comments have been able to, you know, shed		23	improvement, I think it's important and
24	-		24	critical. And hopefully any comments I may
25	with with this file since last year, May, and		25	have made might have in some small way
	Pa	ge 138		Page 140
1	some of the involvement that, on behalf of		1	contributed to that.
2	government, and government has done in try	ing	2	The issue ofthe other point I want to
3	to, you know, respond to the issues in and		3	and you asked me a question about it a moment
4	around ER/PR. And but as weand the		4	ago and I want to repeat it again, because a
5	Commission will go on for some time yet an	nd	5	question was posed of me and, in fact, Ms.
6	there'll be lots of discussions around		6	Chaytor posed a question a couple of days ago
7	briefing notes, lots of discussions around		7	and I answered it here but she gave me reason
8	numbers and phone calls and those sorts of		8	to reflect for quite some time after and I
9	things. I'll repeat something that I said		9	hadn't forgotten the question, when she talked
10	some time ago in, it was probably back in		10	about my public comments last year and what I
11	February month, you know, behind all of the	se	11	might have said around the fact that everybody
12	statistics and all of these numbers and all of		12	had been tested and whether or not that would
13	this discussion around the flow of		13	have had an impact on someone inquiring about
14	information, the people who gave testimon	\mathbf{y}	14	their current status. Anything that I shared
15			15	in the public domain last year or I share in
16			16	the public domain today or ever in my role as
17			17	a Minister is based on the information that's
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made available to me. And there's a heavy

information that comes to me. But at the same

and as much I said here the other day and I'm

everybody else, everybody had been contacted,

time the information that I shared last year

acknowledging again today, that the

information that I did share last year that

reliance, as I've said in the past, for the

are not with us because of their untimely

death. And one of the things that as we've

gone through this process, as I've gone

through this process in the last eight or ten

months, that's never been lost on me in as

clinical review of a process, but one of the

much as this is a, in some respects, a

things that I've never lost sight of, this is

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22 MR. WISEMAN:

valuable lessons from what we'll learn from this process. And as a government we've made some announcements thus far. In fact, I've added some things to my comments to Ms. Chaytor yesterday that I've learned, what I've learned from this process here as we've been talking, what I learned from her questions to me back in March. And if over the course of the follow coming weeks that new information surfaces that we can learn from and requires

some action by government, then my commitment

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management personnel. 16 MR. WISEMAN: A. Yes. 18 CHAYTOR, Q.C.: Q. Who are they, what data management personnel or what new personnel have been identified that weren't in place originally?

A. I wouldn't be able to answer that question for

you specifically because it's about a very

specific question. I wouldn't be able to

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1 answer that.	1	year or is that intended to be a one time
2 CHAYTOR, Q.C.:	2	allotment?
3 Q. So this is	3 MR. V	VISEMAN:
4 MR. WISEMAN:	4 A.	This would this \$175,000.00 is not a one
5 A. We would allocate the funding and the	he 5	time investment. This will be an annual
6 authority would then pull together the	e 6	investment that will be added to Eastern
7 skillsets that they would need to enhance	what 7	Health's current existing budget, and it would
8 they already have in place. I wouldn't b	be 8	be intended that this would be an ongoing
9 able to tell you exactly what that would be	e. 9	process.
10 CHAYTOR, Q.C.:	10 CHAY	TOR, Q.C.:
11 Q. So this would be Eastern Health would 1	have 11 Q.	So the external reviewers would come in each
indicated to government personnel that v	vere 12	year?
required?	13 MR. V	VISEMAN:
14 MR. WISEMAN:	14 A.	Well, the issue of the mechanics of how this
15 A. Yeah.	15	would work because obviously you have a
16 CHAYTOR, Q.C.:	16	tied to this, there's the other piece around
17 Q. Okay. If you come down under qual	ity 17	the accreditation process, which is the
assurance and monitoring, "The province	cial 18	process that's currently being worked through
government has approved \$175,000.00 pe	er year 19	in terms of identifying how that might be
20 for Eastern Health to implement educati	on, 20	structured. So it was envisaged, though, that
training, quality assurance activities in IHG	C. 21	this would provide some resources to allow
22 In particular, this funding will allow for	22	people to come in from outside to periodically
pathologists and technologists to participa	ite 23	look at the operation of Eastern Health, that
in relevant training programs". I'm sorry,	, I 24	area of the lab. I don't know if we zeroed on
25 think I missed the bullet. It's the one with	n 25	it close enough to say this will happen on an
	Page 146	Page 148
the external reviewers. I'm sorry, yes,	1	annual basis, or if it would be every six
2 participate in relevant training programs e	each 2	months. You know, that level of detail, I'm
year and allow for external reviewers to v	isit 3	not sure we worked through that piece.
4 the Eastern Health IHC laboratory to asse	ss 4 CHAY	TOR, Q.C.:
5 current practise against best practises	5 Q.	But it was certainly intended that it be more
6 elsewhere.	6	than just
7 MR. WISEMAN:	7 MR. V	VISEMAN:
8 A. Yes.	8 A.	One time thing.
9 CHAYTOR, Q.C.:	9 CHAY	TOR, Q.C.:
10 Q. So this is an additional \$175,000.00 pe	er 10 Q.	2007/2008.
11 annum.	11 MR. V	VISEMAN:
12 MR. WISEMAN:	12 A.	You're absolutely right, yes.
13 A. Yes.	13 CHAY	TOR, Q.C.:
14 CHAYTOR, Q.C.:	I	So it would be an ongoing periodic review?
15 Q. For Eastern Health to do this, and it involves	I	VISEMAN:
education and quality assurance activities	in 16 A.	Yes.
17 IHC, and also to allow for external reviewe	ers 17 CHAY	TOR, Q.C.:
18 to visit.		And the external reviewers, who will determine
19 MR. WISEMAN:	19	who they will be? Will the government have
20 A. Uh-hm.	20	any input into that?
21 CHAYTOR, Q.C.:		VISEMAN:
22 Q. To assess current practise against best	I	That would be part of the quality control
practise elsewhere. Is there idea of externa		piece that Eastern Health would do as part of
reviewers coming to visit the IHC laborato		their operations. I mean, right now as I
is that intended that that would go on each	oh 25	understand it they take some of their test

understand it, they take some of their test

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is that intended that that would go on each

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1	results and send them out to different	1	a subject of discussion?
2	laboratories outside as part of their quality	2 MR. V	VISEMAN:
3	measure. That's a piece of their own quality	3 A.	Yes.
4	initiative. This would be something that they	4 CHAY	YTOR, Q.C.:
5	would identify, someone who's able to come in		And I'd just like to clarify something in Mr.
6	to do a review for them. It's not something	6	Simmons questioning yesterday that came up
7	that we had envisaged having an approval	7	regarding the recommendations and my line of
8	mechanism by government to sign off on who	8	questioning to you regarding the
9	might do that.	9	implementation of the recommendations.
10 C	HAYTOR, Q.C.:	10 MR. V	WISEMAN:
11	Q. And currently does the government have	11 A.	Uh-hm.
12	anything in mind in terms of who might come in	12 CHAY	YTOR, Q.C.:
13	to do any kind of review of the laboratory?	13 Q.	And if we could have, please, P-0277 at page
14	For example, has the government turned its	14	six. Of course, this is the spreadsheet which
15	mind to whether or not to have either or both	15	is dated April 26th, 2007, and the one that
16	of the external reviewers who were here	16	was actually faxed to your Department the end
17	originally to come back? Has that been	17	of May, 2007, was almost a year earlier.
18	considered?	18 MR. V	VISEMAN:
19 M	IR. WISEMAN:	19 A.	Yeah, '06, yeah.
20	A. I think you might have heard yesterday in my		YTOR, Q.C.:
21	testimony that I had had a recent discussion	21 Q.	I think it was a June '06 document, yes. In
22	with my Deputy with respect to the notion of	22	asking questions of you yesterday, Mr. Simmons
23	having I think the way I phrased it	23	indicated that I had gone through with you and
24	yesterday was I expressed an interest to my	24	identified each recommendation that was
25	Deputy in having a discussion with Eastern	25	indicated as being something other than
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1	Health around having someone come back and	1	completed, and then he said he would take you
2	have a look at the success of the	2	he wouldn't take you through them all, but
3	implementation of the recommendations made in	3	he would point out a couple.
4	the two external reviews previous, while at	4 MR. V	VISEMAN:
5	the same time looking at the progress made	5 A.	Uh-hm.
6	towards the implementation of the	6 CHAY	YTOR, Q.C.:
7	recommendations made in the quality review	7 Q.	I just want to be clear. What I did in my
8	that was done, and I referenced a December,	8	line of questioning, and I was careful to do
9	2007, evaluation.	9	this, I did not take you to all the ones that
10 C	HAYTOR, Q.C.:	10	were indicated to be ongoing because clearly
11	Q. Yes, QMP-LS.	11	some of them should be ongoing, including the
12 M	IR. WISEMAN:	12	two that Mr. Simmons pointed out to you;
13	A. And I expressed that interest just in recent	13	number five and number six, involving ongoing
14	days to my Deputy, and I think I answered that	14	educational efforts. I did not, in fact,
15	in evidence yesterday.	15	direct your attention to those. The
16 C	HAYTOR, Q.C.:	16	recommendations that I brought your attention
17	Q. Yes.	17	to were, in fact, recommendations that were
	IR. WISEMAN:	18	not complete or were in some stage of
19	A. We have envisaged at least, I have	19	progressing, but not yet complete, and they
20	envisaged that, and my Deputy and I have had	20	weren't ones that commonsense would dictate
21	that discussion. In all fairness, I don't	21	should be ongoing, so I just wanted to make
22	think he's had time to have that discussion	22	sure in terms of your answering on that line
23	with Eastern Health.	23	of questioning that the ones that were, in
1	HAYTOR, Q.C.:	24	fact, directed to your attention were not the
25	Q. Fair enough, but it is something that has been	25	ones of a nature you would expect to be

ongoing, and in any event, I understood you to	
)

- 2 answer, for example, in number six,
- "Pathologist assistants hired to standardize 3
- grossing procedures", training that started, 4
- that you indicated some concern that the 5
- amount of time that would be taking to have it 6
 - completed if, in fact, the person was hired
- 8 two years before. Is that a fair --

9 MR. WISEMAN:

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- A. Well, I think the -- I forget the exact 10 question, but something to the effect that 11
- training would be something that was ongoing, 12
- and I had indicated that if someone was hired 13
- a couple of years ago and they're still trying 14
- to be trained into the position, I'd be a 15
- 16 little bit concerned if it's still ongoing.

17 CHAYTOR, Q.C.:

- 18 Q. Yes, okay. In fairness, when the document of
- 19 '06 was brought to your attention at the end
- of May, 2007, seeing in a document dated '06 20
- that there were still items not completed, I 21
- 22 take it that wasn't -- didn't raise any alarm
- 23 bells to you. Even though you've been told
- all the recommendations were implemented, 24
- you're looking at a document that was almost a 25

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- year old. 2 MR. WISEMAN:

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- A. That's right, and the focus -- I think I might 3
- have said this to you as well, the focus of 4
- 5 discussion when I got that document was the
- nature of the recommendations because --6
- 7 you're right, this was a year old, so any
 - status report that would have been included as
- part of that would have been a year old. 9

10 CHAYTOR, O.C.:

- 11 Q. Mr. Wiseman, if this document, in fact, had
- been provided to you, would this have caused 12
- you any concern in terms of the status of the 13
- implementation of the recommendations? 14
- 15 MR. WISEMAN:
- A. I mean, obviously anything that wasn't 16
- incomplete, I would have had a -- you know, 17
- this is dated April 26th, and I would have 18
- 19 having this discussion in May, a month later,
- so if something was incomplete, then obviously 20
- it would have prompted a different kind of 21
- 22 discussion.
- 23 CHAYTOR, Q.C.:
- 24 Q. I would like to clarify what exactly you understood from Mr. Abbott regarding his 25

knowledge level of the information that was

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- 2 released in December, 2006, by Eastern Health.
- I understood in my questioning that you said 3
- that you learned at some point in time that 4
- 5 Mr. Abbott was aware that all the information
- had not been disclosed, and did I understand 6 7
 - you today to say that, however, when Mr.
- 8 Abbott became aware of that, you're uncertain
- because you didn't ask the question?

10 MR. WISEMAN:

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- A. I think what I -- I've said that I didn't ask 11
- Mr. Abbott the question. I think what I said 12
 - to you -- I understood what I said to you was
- that your question was when I spoke to Mr. 14
- Abbott about it, he appeared to have some 15
- 16 knowledge of it.
- 17 CHAYTOR, Q.C.:
- Q. Yes, he didn't seem surprised.
- 19 MR. WISEMAN:
- A. But at the same time, having knowledge of it 20
- was my answer to you. So when he got it, how 21
- 22 he got it, I didn't ask him when he became
- 23 aware of it, which was a separate question.
- 24 CHAYTOR, Q.C.:
- 25 Q. Yes, so why -- why didn't you ask Mr. Abbott

how long have we realized this? 1

- 2 MR. WISEMAN:
- A. I don't recall. I mean, I don't know why I 3
- didn't ask him. I just don't recall asking 4
- 5 him.

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- 6 CHAYTOR, O.C.:
- 7 Q. Because when we think about the context in
 - which you would have been having that
- discussion with Mr. Abbott, the whole point 9
- being that you're none too pleased that you've 10
- 11 learned this information didn't come out, but
- you didn't think to say, well, were you aware 12
- of that, when did we become aware of that? 13
- 14 MR. WISEMAN:
- A. I didn't ask the question.
- 16 CHAYTOR, O.C.:
- 17 Q. You didn't ask him that, and you can't tell us
- 18 why?
- 19 MR. WISEMAN:
- A. No. 20

- 21 CHAYTOR, Q.C.:
- Q. And when you spoke publicly of Eastern 22
- Health's failure or your perceived failure for 23
- them to have disclosed the information, and 24
 - you were somewhat critical of Eastern Health

Apri	113, 2000	i-i age	inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing
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1	on that, you did not know the state of your	1	control processes that are necessary to ensure
2	own department's knowledge on that issue, or	2	quality exists, and to make improvements where
3	when your own department may have had the	3	necessary. The monitoring of that is an
4	information and could have also released it?	4	internal process within Eastern Health, and,
5 M	R. WISEMAN:	5	you know, we as a department wouldn't get
6	A. Yeah, my I suppose, the it's a fair	6	progress reports on their quality assurance
7	question you're posing. My comment publicly	7	program, we wouldn't get monthly, quarterly,
8	was whether the department knew or didn't	8	or annual reports about the evaluations that
9	know, my observation at that particular point	9	have been done in any one service area, that
10	and my comment about what should have been	10	as a department, we would want to ensure that
11	released in December wouldn't have changed	11	quality assurance programs are in place, and
12	because the information should have been	12	one of the things one of the tools that we
13	released in December.	13	would use I'll give you some sense of
14 CI	HAYTOR, Q.C.:	14	level, our four Regional Health Authorities
15	Q. Okay. If I can ask then about the issue of	15	are approved by the Canadian Council on Health
16	quality assurance. In answering Mr.	16	Service accreditation. In order for them to
17	Pritchard's questions this morning, you	17	have that accreditation standard, one of the
18	differentiated between what you saw to be the	18	critical pieces that my experience and my
19	department's responsibility, quality assurance	19	knowledge of that council, one of the critical
20	within the Regional Health Authorities, and	20	things that they're looking for is the quality
21	that of the authorities themselves. Could you	21	control programs in an organization. So if an
22	just explain what, what is it that you	22	organization didn't have quality control
23	understand to be the role of the Minister and	23	programs in existence, then they would not
24	the department in setting quality assurance	24	become accredited. So the fact that each of
25	and standards of practise?	25	our authorities have gone through an
	Page 158		Page 160
1 M	R. WISEMAN:	1	accreditation review and are now accredited,
2	A. Quality assurance programs are the	2	you know, would tell me that there is quality

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3 implementation of quality assurance programs and the standards of practise, you know, for 4 5 the particular service or particular clinical service is the role and responsibility of the 6 7 Regional Health Authority. As a department, we 8 would want to ensure that quality assurance 9 programs are in place. The nature of the individual standards and the writing of those 10 11 standards, and the monitoring process 12 associated with that quality control program, 13 that will be the responsibility of the 14 Regional Health Authority. 15 CHAYTOR, Q.C.: Q. So the department would have an overseeing 16

17 role to ensure that, in fact, the quality 18 assurance is in place? 19 MR. WISEMAN: 20 A. That's -- they wouldn't carry out an inspection or any kind of an audit to ensure 21 22 that it was in place for each aspect of the operation. You know, we -- the role of the 23 24 Regional Health Authorities in the delivering 25 of the programs is to build in the quality

control programs in place. It doesn't tell me what has come out of each of the reports that have been done, but it does tell me that an independent body has come in and determined that there is a quality control program in existence in Eastern Health and in the other three authorities. So it's that kind of level that as a Minister you have an understanding that quality assurance programs are in place. Drilling down to a greater level of detail around what might come out of the monthly audits or quarterly audits is not something that I necessarily would have. For example, in the House of Assembly the other day, there was a question from the NDP Party wondering about the reports associated and the results associated with the quality controls that have been implemented in the ER/PR area, these tests that have been sent out to other laboratories for validation. She inquired about that. I understood it existed, but I wasn't in a position to give her an answer. I

gave her an undertaking that I would provide

11pm 10, 2000	i ruge inquiry on from one receptor resums
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it to her, that Eastern Health would provide	personnel within the authorities to determine
2 it to the department and we will in turn	what, in fact, they have in place and
grovide it. So ordinarily I wouldn't have	3 MR. WISEMAN:
4 that in my possession, nor would the	4 A. His liaison would be with the his contact
department have it in their possession.	5 would be with the Vice President of Medical
6 CHAYTOR, Q.C.:	6 Services.
7 Q. Okay. I asked you yesterday about the Medical	7 CHAYTOR, Q.C.:
8 Consultant position which has recently been	8 Q. Okay. So in terms of any issues of quality
9 advertised for the department, and that's Dr.	9 assurance, risk management, best practises and
10 Hunt's position. 11 MR. WISEMAN:	
	over the past few years with the regional
12 A. Yeah.	health authorities, you would expect that Dr.
13 CHAYTOR, Q.C.:	Hunt would be apprised or familiar with any of
Q. So that's a position that was already within	those issues?
the department?	15 MR. WISEMAN:
16 MR. WISEMAN:	16 A. Well, my expectation would be he would be
17 A. Yes.	aware that they existed and that they had them
18 CHAYTOR, Q.C.:	in place. I wouldn't have expected Dr. Hunt
19 Q. And in the ad for that position, it indicates	to have detail of the quality reports that
20 that "The professional position will require	20 would have been coming out of them. I would
21 working collaboratively with other government	have expected him to have some understanding
departments, the regional health authorities.	that each of the authorities did have quality
The successful candidate will be expected to	control programs in place, they were dealing
24 advise the department and work with the	with issues such as risk management, infection
regional health authorities on medical issues	control type of although infection control
1	
	1
Page 162	Page 164
Page 162 related to quality assurance, risk management,	Page 164 1 is not his area, but as a department, we'd
Page 162 related to quality assurance, risk management, clinical practise guidelines, best practise,	Page 164 1 is not his area, but as a department, we'd 2 have that kind of knowledge that those
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Aj	pril 15, 2008	Multi-	-Pa	age TM	Inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing
	Pa	ge 165			Page 167
1	. To 111 1 20 30 242		1		give you any kind of status? Does it indicate
2			2		the status on the issue?
3			3	MR. W	TSEMAN:
4	CHAYTOR, Q.C.:		4	A.	Would have just been the issue, would have
5			5		been probably ER/PRI don't know what the
6	1.6		6		description would have been, but it might be
7	MR. WISEMAN:		7		as brief as that. It might have been short,
8	A. Yeah, within that first two or three weeks fo	r	8		you know, would have been, you know, probably
9	•		9		four or five words or something. It might
10	CHAYTOR, Q.C.:		10		have been issues of wait times in diagnostic
11		,	11		services. It might be, you know, Child, Youth
12			12		and Family Services social workers. It might-
13			13		-so there might be some brief description that
14		١ ١	14		would give me some indication of what the
15			15		issue was.
16			16	CHAY	TOR, Q.C.:
17			17		Okay.
18					ISEMAN:
ı	MR. WISEMAN:		19		And so that way it would give me some sense of
20			20		whether or not it was something we needed to
21			21		deal with now or something that was, you know,
22			22		that hadthat I needed to turn my attention
23			23		to fairly quickly and a cursory scan of some
24			24		of the notes and that would have been the
25			25		extent of which that happened.
F		ge 166			Page 168
1	CHAYTOR, Q.C.:	ge 100	1	CHAV	TOR, Q.C.:
2			2		Okay. And if just look ateven if at giving
ı	MR. WISEMAN:		3	Q.	a cursory scan, the issue identified on the
3	A. Lindicated I would have reviewed the book	to	<i>3</i>		note is "a mistake in testing may have led to
-			5		incorrect treatment for 117 women in this
5			6		province suffering from breast cancer. Not
7		•	7		receiving proper treatment could mean a life
l			8		an death issue for women going through
8			9		cancer". Then the anticipated questions
9 10		d	10		followed right after that and asked first, as
l			11		the Minister of Health and Community Services,
11 12			12		have you lost confidence in the physicians and
ı		_			managers at Eastern Health? Secondly, why
13 14			13 14		does it take more than a year for Eastern
ı					Health to go public and release the results?
15	<u> </u>		15		Third, what is the rate of error? And fourth,
16			16		
ı	CHAYTOR, Q.C.: O That's fine I understood you to say that		17		when will breast cancer screening test resume
18	, , ,		18		at the laboratory in St. John's? And under
19	· ·		19		"key messages" it indicates that Eastern
20	•		20		Health expects to begin testing of new
21			21		patients in St. John's in the new year.

22

23

24

25 MR. WISEMAN:

So, even in giving it a cursory review,

what is it that led you to believe that the

issue had been dealt with?

22

23

24

25

particular briefing note as I have with, so

this--well, let me think first--if there's a

table of contents, does the table of contents

not to worry. But my question being, and if

Page 169 Page 171 A. I didn't read the note. 1 CHAYTOR, O.C.: 2 CHAYTOR, O.C.: Q. So, your understanding that it was an issue that had been dealt with was based on the fact O. You didn't read it. 3 that there was nothing in the public domain at 4 MR. WISEMAN: 4 this point on it and your officials didn't 5 A. I had said that--the ER/PR. because I think 5 what I had said to you earlier is that I had bring the issue to your attention. 6 6 reviewed my briefing note to those things that 7 MR. WISEMAN: 7 8 were topical, something that needed immediate 8 A. The issue, when I say the issue resolved, been action, those things that had been already, in dealt with, I wasn't implying that there was 9 9 10 my view, you know, wasn't something that was 10 nothing further to ever be done on the file. immediate, something that I had been aware had But what I'm saying is in the context of 11 11 been dealt with previously and I didn't need requiring my immediate attention, you know. 12 12 13 to have an immediate decision on. I would And I think I had indicated to you that at 13 have moved on and dealt with other issues. that particular point in time there were two 14 14 or three other issues that there, two in 15 CHAYTOR, O.C.: 15 Q. And I guess that's my question then. particular, that required some immediate 16 16 action and that's what I turned my head to. 17 MR. WISEMAN: 17 A. I think I indicated to you the first time that This one didn't require any immediate response 18 18 I had turned my head to this issue was in the by me at that particular point, and so I moved 19 19 onto the issues that need immediate attention. middle of May. 20 20 21 CHAYTOR, Q.C.: 21 CHAYTOR, Q.C.: 22 Q. Yes, and that's what I had understood, but 22 Q. Yes, and the fact that the ER/PR testing would resume in early new year, that wasn't brought 23 then today I understood in questioning from 23 Mr. Pritchard that somehow you had reviewed to your attention? 24 24 25 MR. WISEMAN: 25 MR. WISEMAN: Page 170 Page 172 A. No, I wasn't aware of that. A. No, no -1 1 2 CHAYTOR, Q.C.: 2 CHAYTOR, Q.C.: Q. How did you form the impression it had been Q. Okay. If I could have 0293, please. This was 3 3 previously dealt with? Who told you that? the excerpt from the annual report of Eastern 4 4 5 MR. WISEMAN: 5 Health that was referred to by Mr. Pritchard. And my only question for you on this is this A. I mean the issue--because I had said to you in 6 6 7 the past, you asked me my knowledge of it 7 is what would be provided to the department before becoming minister and I said it was an 8 8 pursuant to the transparency 9 issue that had been in the public domain. So, 9 accountability legislation. This is the the notion around the public release of annual report. 10 10 information by Eastern Health, they released--11 11 MR. WISEMAN: the information that became public in the fall A. Uh-hm. 12 12 13 of 2005, you know, I had indicated to you 13 CHAYTOR, Q.C.: before that this is information that was in 14 14 Q. So, it's the same documentation that is given 15 the public domain and that was the extent of to the public? It's not a separate document? 15 my knowledge. There was nothing that my 16 16 MR. WISEMAN: officials brought to my attention that needed 17 17 A. No, no, this would be the public some immediate action. I looked at the note. 18 18 CHAYTOR, Q.C.: 19 this is the ER/PR issue that's been dealt with Q. This is the public document? by, you know, that surfaced in the last year 20 MR. WISEMAN: 20

A. Yes.

22 CHAYTOR, O.C.:

25 MR. WISEMAN:

23

24

Q. So, the department doesn't get anything more

or less than what is given to the public?

them as they needed action.

21 22

23

24

25

or two, my previous colleagues had been

dealing with it, nothing that my officials had

I moved onto the next issue and dealt with

said that we needed immediate action on and so

	Tuge inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing
Page 173	Page 175
1 A. This is the annual report, yes.	telling usyour understanding is that insofar
2 CHAYTOR, Q.C.:	2 as anything with respect to the preservation
3 Q. This is it? Okay.	and promotion of health, the prevention and
4 MR. WISEMAN:	4 control of disease, the administration of
5 A. The department gets itI think there's a	5 hospitals, insofar as any of that has been
document outlines its action plan or the	6 delegated to the Regional Health Authorities,
7 strategy for the coming three year period. I	7 it is not longer within the powers and
8 think there's a three year period that ran	8 functions of the minister?
9 from '05 to about now. And this other one	9 MR. WISEMAN:
being developed now runs from '08 to '11 or	10 A. I don't know if I'd describe it that extreme.
something.	I think what's happened here is, what I
12 CHAYTOR, Q.C.:	understand here is that government now has,
Q. Okay, 0294, I believe. These are the new	through the Regional Health Authorities
exhibits this morning. Yes, this is the	legislation, you know, provided a response or
regulation which I brought to your attention	created four Regional Health Authorities to
the last couple of days and Mr. Pritchard	give them the responsibility to deliver the
reviewed with you this morning, the regulation	services to respond to those issues within our
pursuant to the Executive Council legislation.	province. So, the delivery of the programs
19 MR. WISEMAN:	and services that deals with the adoption of
20 A. Uh-hm.	20 children, the programs and services that deal
21 CHAYTOR, Q.C.:	with child care services; the authority to
22 Q. And in asking my questions of you, under four,	deliver those programs rests with the Regional
the powers and duties, and I pointed out A,B	Health Authorities and how they deliver those
and C. Do you recall I also did bring to your	programs and the human resources and the
attention what has been referred today as a	people are that are use to actually provide
Page 174	Page 176
Page 174 caveat. I did bring to your attention the	Page 176 the direct service are the responsibility of
1 caveat. I did bring to your attention the	
caveat. I did bring to your attention the final sentence, "which are not, or insofar as	the direct service are the responsibility of the health authorities.
caveat. I did bring to your attention the final sentence, "which are not, or insofar as they are not the responsibility of another	the direct service are the responsibility of the health authorities. As a minister, ultimately, on behalf of
caveat. I did bring to your attention the final sentence, "which are not, or insofar as they are not the responsibility of another minister, agency, body corporation, board,	the direct service are the responsibility of the health authorities. As a minister, ultimately, on behalf of government, you're still ultimately
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caveat. I did bring to your attention the final sentence, "which are not, or insofar as they are not the responsibility of another minister, agency, body corporation, board, organization or person". And I asked you whether or not you understood what that might mean or whether you had taken any advice on	the direct service are the responsibility of the health authorities. As a minister, ultimately, on behalf of government, you're still ultimately responsible. But the day-to-day operational and the running of those services and the level of detail that the Minister gets
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	15, 2006	[-I	age inquiry on normone Receptor Testing
	Page 177		Page 179
1	without share capital for the purpose of Part	1	I had also said to your earlier that
2	21 of the Corporations Act". And in	2	
3	answering, I believe, Mr. Pritchard's question	3	
4	on that, you indicated that makes the	4	
5	authorities separate, legal entities and	5	
6	that's the purpose of incorporation. Is that	6	CHAYTOR, Q.C.:
7	also for purposes of liability?	7	
8 MR.	WISEMAN:	8	
	. I don't know what thethe issue around	9	
10	liabilityI'm not sure what the connection is	10	
11	between the authorities and government; that's	11	MR. WISEMAN:
12	a legal question I've never asked.	12	A. No, nothing that rings a bell with me, no.
13 CHA	AYTOR, Q.C.:	13	CHAYTOR, Q.C.:
1	Okay, and if we could have, please, P-0206,	14	Q. My final question out of final question out
15	page eight, and this I only bring this to	15	
16	your attention in that same context about the	16	
17	understanding of the authorities being	17	
18	separate legal entities. This is a series of	18	
19	e-mails between your I should go back to	19	
20	the beginning for you, sorry. The first one	20	-
21	begins, I believe, here from Tansy Mundon,	21	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
22	your Director of Communications, and she sends	22	
23	this to George Tilley, Susan Bonnell,	23	•
24	Elizabeth Matthews, Josephine Cheeseman, John	24	
25	Abbott, Moira Hennessey, yourself, Ross	25	_
	Page 178		Page 180
1	Wiseman, Sharon Vokey, your EA, and she's	1	
2	sending this on May 18th, 2007, and it's a	2	
3	copy the subject is, "Eastern Health	3	
4	apologize for withholding cancer details", and	4	
5	it's an excerpt from CBC News on that date,	5	
6	May 18th, 2007. You will see that there's	6	
7	reference there's reference here to Eastern	7	
8	Health sorry, right here, "Until now,	8	
9	however, Eastern Health, which operates	9	
10	hospitals and clinics at arms length from the	10	
11	Newfoundland and Labrador Government, had	11	
12	indicated that the test error rate was as low	12	•
13	as 10 percent". Then your e-mail back to	13	
14	Tansy, the same date at 6:40 p.m, you write,	14	
15	"Note the reference to arms length", and she	15	
16	responds, "I know", and asks you how both	16	
17	interviews went. Mr. Wiseman, what is this	17	
18	referring to and why are you noting the	18	
19	reference to arms length?	19	
1	WISEMAN:	1	MR. WISEMAN:
	. I don't know why I've referenced it here, but	20	
$\begin{vmatrix} 21 & A \\ 22 & \end{vmatrix}$	the issue of arms length, Eastern Health, as	1	CHAYTOR, Q.C.:
23	the other three authorities, are operated	23	
24	they're separate corporate entities and they	24	-
25	do operate at arms length from government, but	25	

15

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			C
1	ascertained by r	eonle working	on the database.

- 2 for example, and the fact that, I think in
- your words, Robert indicated to you that it 3
- was all over the place --4
- 5 MR. WISEMAN:
- A. Yes.
- 7 CHAYTOR, O.C.:
- 8 Q. Wouldn't you expect Eastern Health to have
- been aware of the state of their documentation
- 10 and recordkeeping around this issue?
- 11 MR. WISEMAN:
- A. I would have been expecting that, yes. 12
- 13 CHAYTOR, Q.C.:
- Q. Can you reconcile what is in this e-mail of 14
- May 16th, 2007, with the adamancy with which 15
- 16 Eastern Health told you all patients were
- contacted? 17
- 18 MR. WISEMAN:
- 19 A. I can't reconcile it at all, actually. This
- is the first time -- as I said earlier, the 20
- first time I've seen this e-mail, and as I 21
- 22 read it here now today, I had -- I mean,
- obviously that's a very obvious question, how 23
- does this reconcile with the adamant 24
- statements that they, in fact, all were 25

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- contacted. Later in questioning this morning 1
- 2 as well, you know, there was another exhibit
- displayed where Eastern Health officials were 3
- confirming that, taking it one step further, 4
- 5 not only have we made contact, but those
- people who have been contacted by physicians, 6
- 7 we've in fact confirmed that that was done as
- 8 well. So these statements don't reconcile
- with what I'm reading here at all.
- 10 CHAYTOR, Q.C.:
- 11 Q. Actually there are -- if I may, Commissioner,
- two other questions? 12
- 13 THE COMMISSIONER:
- Q. Are they both arising or are they --14
- 15 CHAYTOR, Q.C.:
- O. No --
- 17 THE COMMISSIONER:
- Q. Just one of them not arising?
- 19 CHAYTOR, Q.C.:
- 20 O. One of them --
- 21 THE COMMISSIONER:
- Q. Find out what they are.
- 23 CHAYTOR, Q.C.:
- Q. One of them I had intended to ask yesterday, 24 25
 - and both of these are not necessarily arising.

One is a follow up question to something that

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Page 184

- 1 2
- I asked yesterday, but I don't know that I
- explored it further. 3
- 4 THE COMMISSIONER:
- Q. Let's find out what you want to ask. 5
- 6 CHAYTOR, Q.C.:
 - Q. Okay. The first question is whether or not
- communications within the Department of Health 8
- itself, the Department of Health, and 9
 - communication, whether or not any
- communication issues that have been identified 11
- through this process, whether or not any 12
- measures have been taken to try and rectify 13
- any communications issues within the 14
 - department internally have been addressed?
- 16 THE COMMISSIONER:
- Q. So you're asking the Minister whether or not 17
- as a result of this issue, there has been any 18
- 19 change --
- 20 CHAYTOR, Q.C.:
- Q. Within the department in terms of --
- 22 THE COMMISSIONER:
- Q. Within the department's method of 23
 - communication?
- 25 CHAYTOR, Q.C.:

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25

Q. Own internal communication processes.

- 2 THE COMMISSIONER:
- Q. Yes, you can ask that question. Minister. 3
- 4 MR. WISEMAN:
- A. Not that I can identify that arise out of the
- ER/PR issue. 6
- 7 CHAYTOR, Q.C.:
- Q. Is there any intention to do that?
- 9 MR. WISEMAN:
- A. I mean, obviously the, you know, the -- I 10
- 11 haven't turned my head to examining the role
- of the Department of Communications in this 12
- 13 piece within the department, and I haven't
- 14 looked at the internal communications that
- existed in and around the information that was 15
- flowing to me. The haunting question, and 16
- you've raised it several times in your 17
- discussion around the briefing notes, is our 18
 - ability to provide or to have a heavy
- reliance, 100 percent reliance on the accuracy 20
- of the data that comes to us that are shared 21
- in briefing notes, and how we might be able to 22 reconcile that. It's an interesting question 23
- you raise, one that we hadn't turned out heads 24
 - to at this point, but it's a point that needs

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1	some consideration so that if we're relying on	1	1	view of looking at, you know, any actions that
2	information that comes in the briefing notes,	2	2	might be necessary. One of the things that I -
3	if I'm going to speak to it, then having some	3	3	- you know, as a part of that process, there
4	comfort that it comes from a valid source and	4		is a piece of work that's ongoing as we speak
5	is verifiable, that's a piece that I	5		that involves a variety of stakeholders that
6	clearly you've highlighted it in this	6		involves developing a cancer strategy for the
7	discussion for me, and that I really need to	7		province. In fact, I've had a recent
8	turn my head to, but up to this particular	8		discussion with the ADM who is taking the lead
9	point I haven't turned my head to an	9		on that in our department about needing to
10	evaluation of the internal communication	10		actually start moving and rolling that
11	within the department.	11		strategy out, and she's indicated that she
ı	CHAYTOR, Q.C.:	12		wants to there's a few things she needs to
13	Q. Okay, and even the communication between	13		get concluded first and then we'll be able to
14	Ministers as one is leaving or being	14		move forward with it, but in the ordinary
15	reassigned and, you know, even at that level,	15		course of events what will happen now is that
ı	the communication of the continuity of			any information we glean from an analysis of a
16 17	knowledge from one Minister to another.	16		document like recently released, we would want
ı	MR. WISEMAN:	17		to make sure that it's reflected in what we
ı	A. Yeah.	18		
19		19		will roll out as a strategy to deal with
ı	CHAYTOR, Q.C.:	20		cancer in this province.
21	Q. Okay, and the other question which I did plan			AYTOR, Q.C.:
22	to ask yesterday, and if I may, it concerns	22		Q. Thank you, and those are all my questions.
23	mortality rates for breast cancer in this			E COMMISSIONER:
24	province. If I may ask the Minister his	24		Q. Mr. Minister, are you able to comment on
25	knowledge of that.	25	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	whether or not this is new news? I had
	Page 186			Page 188
1	THE COMMISSIONER:	1	l	thought that that was known before. Do you
2	Q. Yes. That's been in the news recently.	2	2	know whether it was or not, that is that the
3	CHAYTOR, Q.C.:	3	3	mortality rate from cancer in this province
4	Q. Thank you, Commissioner. Is the mortality	4	1	was higher in respect of breast cancer and
5	rate for breast cancer patients higher in this	5	5	maybe certain other kinds?
6	province than in the other Atlantic provinces	6	5 MR	. WISEMAN:
7	or the nation?	7	7 .	A. Yeah, I think the there was a report last
8	MR. WISEMAN:	8	3	year that commented on the incidents of
9	A. I understand that they're slightly higher, but	9)	cancer, various forms of cancer in this
10	I can't tell you to what degree.	10)	province relative to other jurisdictions, and
11	CHAYTOR, Q.C.:	11	l	there was also a it also talked about
12	Q. Has the government sought any expert opinion	12	2	mortality. So the issue around the mortality
13	or arranged any research to determine why that	13	3	rates being higher in this province than in
14	would be the case?	14	1	other jurisdictions, that was information that
15	MR. WISEMAN:	15	5	would have been this is not the first time
16	A. Not yet.	16	5	that's surfaced, is probably a better way to
17	CHAYTOR, Q.C.:	17	7	phrase it. That's been obviously not
18	Q. Is there an intention to do so?	18	3	obviously, but it's been announced and
ı	MR. WISEMAN:	19		released in previous reports such as this. So
20	A. What would happen with that report as it just	20		this report that I understand that was just
21	recently would release, that would be resting	21		recently referenced is a more recent
22	with one of the ADMs right now that would do	22		updated that same kind of profiling. As I
23	kind of an analysis, and that would be used	23		understood it, it's part of an ongoing
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country.

assessment that's being done of cancer in the

So it's tracking the same

then for a briefing with me and with the

executive members of the department, with a

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1 information over a longer period of time.	1 Q. When you say following that way, I feel that
2 THE COMMISSIONER:	2 there's certain gaps, is there?
3 Q. Thank you. Mr. Wiseman, as you yourself	3 COFFEY, Q.C.:
4 noted, this is a long process and I'm afraid	4 Q. Yes.
5 that we've spent a fair amount of our time	5 THE COMMISSIONER:
6 with you. I do very much appreciate your	6 Q. All right.
7 coming. It's important that I get	7 COFFEY, Q.C.:
8 perspectives from a number of the persons who	8 Q. 0315 through 0369 inclusive; 0371 through 0374
9 have knowledge of this situation, including	9 inclusive; 0376 to 0393 inclusive; 0395 to
you. So thank you very much for being here.	10 0464 inclusive; 0466 to 0480 inclusive; and
11 MR. WISEMAN:	11 0483; and 0484.
12 A. Thank you for the opportunity. Hopefully,	12 THE COMMISSIONER:
something I've shared will be of some benefit	13 Q. All right. I understand you are seeking to
to the work that you do, and I look forward to	have admitted Exhibits P, they're all P
15 receiving your report when it's concluded. As	15 exhibits, correct?
16 I've said, government has made a commitment to	16 COFFEY, Q.C.:
1	
1	
	18 THE COMMISSIONER:
19 Q. Thank you. Given the hour, it doesn't seem	19 Q. P-0315 to 0369; 0371 to 0374; 0376 to 0393;
20 that it's much point in swearing in a new	20 0395 to 0464; 0466 to 0480; 0483; and 0484?
21 witness now.	21 COFFEY, Q.C.:
22 COFFEY, Q.C.:	22 Q. Yes, Commissioner.
23 Q. Mr. Tilley will be here this afternoon.	23 THE COMMISSIONER:
24 THE COMMISSIONER:	24 Q. Entered.
Q. Okay. Well, why don't we adjourn then until	25 EXHIBITS P-0315 THROUGH P-0369 ENTERED INTO EVIDENCE.
25 Q. Okay. Well, why don't we adjourn then until	
Page 190	Page 192
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1 6 DOSITION THAT WAS TITST CALLED ASSISTANT 1 6 HITSING THEFE WOULD have been an assistant
7 administrator but it had evolved during the 7 sorry, assistant executive director for
8 time in terms of changing of the title. And 8 support services, so the organization was
9 it was predominantly to support that 9 carved up in that fashion. It would probably 10 organization in terms of the labour relations 10 also be appropriate to mention that health
issues and some opportunity to get into some care organizations are unique from the other departments that were relatively small perspective that the medical quality has a
but began to give me an appreciation for some 13 but began to give me an appreciation for some 13 mechanism where it has a direct access to the
of the challenges outside of the direct human 14 board. Medical staff are a part of
resource and labour relations area. Then in 15 organizations within each facility whereby
the late '80s I made a lateral move to the they would have a Medical Advisory Committee
Janeway Child Health Centre and I took on 17 that would oversee the activities of
18 greater responsibility at that point in time 18 physicians and there would be provision for
greater responsibility at that point in time physicians and there would be provision for that person who chairs that committee to be
for issues that went beyond the human resource 19 that person who chairs that committee to be
for issues that went beyond the human resource side and actually got into some of the non- that person who chairs that committee to be present at the board meetings and speak to
for issues that went beyond the human resource that person who chairs that committee to be that person who chairs that committee to be present at the board meetings and speak to those issues.
for issues that went beyond the human resource side and actually got into some of the non- clinical areas as a senior manager overseeing those areas. And while I was at the Janeway I that person who chairs that committee to be present at the board meetings and speak to those issues. 22 COFFEY, Q.C.:
for issues that went beyond the human resource side and actually got into some of the non-clinical areas as a senior manager overseeing that person who chairs that committee to be present at the board meetings and speak to those issues.

April 15, 2008 Mult	1-Page Inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing
Page 197	Page 199
1 hospital like clinical services, physician	1 capturing the key ones.
2 services?	2 COFFEY, Q.C.:
3 MR. TILLEY:	3 Q. The nurses would have?
4 A. Well, they would be responsible for the	4 MR. TILLEY:
5 oversight of the physician component directly,	5 A. Nurses would.
6 but -	6 COFFEY, Q.C.:
7 COFFEY, Q.C.:	7 Q. Would report -
8 Q. Would they report to you as the executive	8 MR. TILLEY:
9 director of the Janeway?	9 A. Through the director of nursing -
10 MR. TILLEY:	10 COFFEY, Q.C.:
11 A. The Medical Advisory Committee would not.	11 Q. To yourself?
12 COFFEY, Q.C.:	12 MR. TILLEY:
13 Q. Okay.	13 A. To myself.
14 MR. TILLEY:	14 COFFEY, Q.C.:
15 A. But there would be certain members of the	15 Q. Okay. So you were about to tell us the
Medical Advisory Committee would not, nor the	Janewaywell, the health care system within
committee itself.	St. John's was reorganized?
18 COFFEY, Q.C.:	18 MR. TILLEY:
19 Q. Okay. They would report through their chair	19 A. Yes, that's correct.
20 to the -	20 COFFEY, Q.C.:
21 MR. TILLEY:	Q. Could you tell us, please, about that and how-
22 A. The board of trustees.	-I mean, like, your career as you went?
23 COFFEY, Q.C.:	23 MR. TILLEY:
24 Q. The board of trustees itself, okay.	24 A. Right. Well, there was a restructuring
25 MR. TILLEY:	decision made by government to collapse the 60
Page 198	Page 200
Page 198 1 A. There were other clinical services that were	
1 A. There were other clinical services that were	
1 A. There were other clinical services that were	plus organizations that functioned relatively
1 A. There were other clinical services that were 2 not physicians.	plus organizations that functioned relatively independent of one another with their own boards of directors into a much smaller
1 A. There were other clinical services that were 2 not physicians. 3 COFFEY, Q.C.:	plus organizations that functioned relatively independent of one another with their own boards of directors into a much smaller number, and 14 seems to stick in my mind. The
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in the organization and some major projects	1	be represented on the Medical Advisory
2 that were under way at that point in time,	2	Committee but there was really no designed or
a namely, the plan to restructure the	3	structured mechanism for the communications
4 organizational layout from a discipline based	4	with the other disciplines in the
to a program based and secondly, a major	5	organization. So the program-based model
6 initiative to reduce the number of physical	6	provided for a leadership team that would
7 sites that existed at that point in time in	7	involve a physician leader, a professional
8 St. John's.	8	manager, director of a particular program and
9 COFFEY, Q.C.:	9	if the physician leader was not a part of the
10 Q. So, I'm sorry, from a discipline base to a?	10	university environment where they were a
11 MR. TILLEY:	11	leader in that capacity, then there would be a
12 A. A program-based approach.	12	third member. And to give you an example, if
13 COFFEY, Q.C.:	13	there was in the child health program an
14 Q. Okay.	14	academic leader in Memorial University that
15 MR. TILLEY:	15	would be known as athis chair of the
16 A. And if I might, I can elaborate a little bit	16	discipline of paediatrics, that person would
on that.	17	be a member of the leadership team for that
18 COFFEY, Q.C.:	18	particular program in addition to the
19 Q. I'm going to ask you to do so, please?	19	professional manager and in addition to the
20 MR. TILLEY:	20	physician that was chosen to be a part of that
21 A. Thank you. Typically and historically	21	leadership team. To help probably a little
hospitals had been designed around the	22	bit more to give you a flavour, the programs,
particular discipline, so all of the nurses	23	there was a child health program, there was a
reported in to a single department to a	24	cardiac program, there was a surgery program.
director of nursing, all of the psychologists	25	And then there were others that we can't
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reported in to a department forwith a	1	remember exactly how we coined them, but I'm
director, all of the respiratory therapists	2	sure they've very significant for this
would do likewise, so the organization was	3	purpose, clinical support programs I think may
4 very much structured upon occupational lines.	4	have been the term we used, and lab and
5 The move to a program approach was designed	ed 5	diagnostic imaging, in particular, come to
6 primarily to start shifting thinking away from	6	mind where they weren't revolving around any
7 the various occupational groups to more of a	7	particular patient, but they were a major
8 patient focus, so that became the centre for	8	support to all of the clinical programs.
how the organization divided itself up. There	9 THE	COMMISSIONER:
were other advantages by moving in that mode	1 10 Q	. So are you saying that included within
aside from bringing it around the patient, but	11	clinical support program would be laboratories
it also strived to achieve a greater	12	and -
interdisciplinary approach to the delivery of	13 MR.	TILLEY:
health services. Up until that point in time	14 A	. And diagnostic imaging, which would be
with individual departments, then it allowed	15	radiology, yes.
16 for potential fragmentation of work	16 THE	COMMISSIONER:
environment. So you brought the groups	17 Q	. Okay. Could we go back, I just want to
together, you organized them along a	18	understand a little more about this
19 particularly defined patient group or	19	organizational business. Are you saying that
20 population. The other significant issue that	20	the old method was that the disciplines would
comes to my mind that was being promoted as	an 21	report to somebody in their sphere, so was the
22 advantage was to bring the physicians more	22	disadvantage of that that sort of the people
23 into the management of health services.	23	in nursing were not necessarily talking to the
24 Traditionally there would be physician leaders	24	people in, well, I don'tradiology or in some
in the organization and they would, in turn,	25	other aspect of the service, was that the

Ap	oril 15, 2008 M	<u> Iulti-Pa</u>	age	Inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing
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1	problem? Why did you feel the necessity to	1		Commissioner, the interdisciplinary approach
2	change in the way it was done?	2		was seen to be enhanced by this model. Taking
3	MR. TILLEY:	3		this very large organization and dividing it
4	A. It was certainly to increase the	4		up into smaller components was seen as an
5	interdisciplinary collaboration, to remove	5		opportunity to allow for more local decision
6	some of the barriers that were, seemed to	6		making, and then, of course, as I mentioned,
7	exist. For example, in the child health	7		the ability for the physicians to become more
8	program in the past you would have a social	8		involved in the management process.THE
9	worker and a nurse reporting up to different	9		COMMISSIONER:
10	managers. In the new structure that person,	10	THE	E COMMISSIONER:
11	both of those individuals report to the same	11	(Q. And from your perspective, did that work?
12	manger so what you did was that you provided	d 12	MR	. TILLEY:
13	an opportunity for increased dialogue between	13	A	A. Over the first couple of years there were a
14	them. Now, it's not to suggest that there was	14		lot of adjustments for everybody because that
15	no collaboration amongst the disciplines prior	15		concept was very new, and I suspect that when
16	to that, but the program approach was an	16		the CEO of the day announced that that was the
17	evolving organization process, particularly	17		direction that they were going to use, we all
18	throughout Canada, and had been seen as an	18		looked to learn more about it. There was
19	opportunity here to pursue in light of the	19		limited literature, but where it did exist, it
20	size that this organization was taking on.	20		was clearly saying there's opportunities to
21	And the discussions at the time, some of the	21		this being of greater benefit, allowing for
22	discussions at the time were if we left it	22		more localized decision making and physician
23	with the traditional model, that it would be	23		input, and overall that was seen as a good

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the services. So it -1

2 THE COMMISSIONER:

24

25

Q. So do I conclude from that that if the 3 Waterford had remained the Waterford, a 4 5 separate group, then maybe there wouldn't be problems with the traditional model, but 6 7 because it was a smaller operation, or were 8 there inherent in the old model difficulties 9 that one would have to get past?

more bureaucratic than would need to be the

case, so we ended up decentralizing a lot of

11 A. Well, some of it was perceived obstacles, but just having the fact of having a social worker 12 13 report up to their manager, and the nurses in 14 the same work area report to a separate manager, and now you reported to one, it 15 allowed for that increased dialogue. 16

17 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. If i could on that point, the manager might 18 19 not have any particular expertise in social work or nursing? 20

21 MR. TILLEY:

A. Absolutely. That was -- that's a very good 22 point. You chose -- you chose a leader 23 24 because of their leadership skills as opposed to being from any one background. 25

O. So there was limited literature on this at the 1 2 time?

3 MR. TILLEY:

25 COFFEY, Q.C.:

thing.

A. Well, where we found the bulk of our 4 5 information was actually going to individual organizations that had chosen this route to 6 7 learn how they had done it, what programs they had selected and beginning to appreciate some 8 of the rationale for doing it. 9

10 COFFEY, O.C.:

11 Q. So the move from a disciplined based model to a program based model, I think you told the 12 13 Commissioner it was coming into vogue into 14 Canada or it was being utilized increasingly in Canada? 15 16 MR. TILLEY:

17 A. Yes.

18 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. At the time it was adopted here in the mid 19 90s, 1995, how widespread was it, do you know, 20 21 in Canada?

22 MR. TILLEY:

A. I'm going to give you my best estimate. I'd 23 24 say it would be about 30 to 40 percent of the 25 organizations were starting to see this.

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1 Individual stand-alone hospitals, you did:		Now why didn't they all go together; in part,
2 see it much in. It was in the larger	2	was because of the size, we were creating too
3 organizations that were coming together	and 3	large of an entity, and surgery had multiple
4 you were looking for some way of flatter		patients to deal with. So some patients would
5 the layers.	5	be for cancer, others might be orthopedic,
6 THE COMMISSIONER:	6	others might be neurological. So it wasn't
7 Q. Forgive me for being simplistic, but goi	ng 7	we couldn't find a perfect model where you
8 back to the first thing, it seems to me you	-	built it around a defined group of patients.
9 were creating larger organizations and th		So there were sometimes that we had to make
finding ways of letting them think they w		modifications based upon what was a natural
still back in smaller organizations?	11	fit and what was a reasonable size.
12 MR. TILLEY:	12 COFF	EY, Q.C.:
13 A. Well, not letting them think as much as sa		And I'm going to Commissioner, I'm going to
that we recognize child health as a unique		come back at a subsequent time to look at some
area, and, therefore, needed to be seen as		of this and actually look at organizational
identifiable entity, and we did the same w		charts.
mental health. So in many ways the ch		COMMISSIONER:
health program in the new structure was		Okay.
similar to the combined clinical services	•	EY, Q.C.:
the former Janeway and the former Child		In terms of an overview, you've run a the
21 Rehabilitation Centre.	21	CEO of the day, and who is that?
22 THE COMMISSIONER:	22 MR. T	·
23 Q. Uh-hm.		Sister Elizabeth Davis.
24 MR. TILLEY:		EY, Q.C.:
25 A. All of the non-clinical services would ha		Was the move to a program based model her
	Page 210	Page 212
been removed and they would have be		idea?
reporting into Facilities Management, Fin		
or whatever administrative support depart		Yes. Before the executive team had been
because those were all centralized, but or		recruited, it was known that that was the
5 clinical basis, a more decentralized model		decision that was going to be pursued.
6 chosen.		EY, Q.C.:
		In other words, in joining or offering oneself
7 COFFEY, Q.C.:		to join that executive team, you knew what you
8 Q. And I take it, for example, surgery as a	I	•
9 program, surgical program, that would be been more widespread it would include		were getting yourself into in the sense of
been more widespread, it would include		what was expected?
Janeway as well as	11 MR. T	
12 MR. TILLEY:		Oh, yes, it's fair to say.
13 A. No, in fact, in the case of the Janeway, it	I	EY, Q.C.:
14 was all inclusive.		Do you know was that at the time, was that
15 COFFEY, Q.C.:	15	unique to the Health Care Corporation in St.
16 Q. Okay.	16	John's within Newfoundland?
17 MR. TILLEY:	17 MR. T	
18 A. Thank you for clarifying that. It got ver	1	Yes. I do remember going to St. Anthony, for
complicated when we got into the surgi		example, and speaking to their senior
area. We had two very related programs.		management team because they were interested
21 was surgery, which predominantly addres		in pursuing a program based model. I'm not
in-patient population, with some out-patient		sure whether they did or not.
23 services for the adult sites. It did not		EY, Q.C.:
include, however, the operating rooms.		So initially when it was introduced in
has many of the new energine progre		Navyfoundland it was your understanding it

25

Newfoundland, it was your understanding it

became part of the peri-operative program.

Inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing Page 215 indicated that there would be a leadership 2 team within any one program. There would be a physician, a clinical leader or clinical 3 chief, as it were? 4 5 MR. TILLEY: A. Yes, a medical leader. 7 COFFEY, O.C.: 8 Q. A medical leader, a professional administrative manager, and in some instances 10 a separate medical school discipline chair? 11 MR. TILLEY: 12 A. Yes. 13 COFFEY, O.C.: 14 Q. For that particular program. They would all 15 report to whom? That trio, duo or trio, would 16 report to whom? 17 MR. TILLEY: A. Well, in the case of the group as a whole, 18 there would be a designated senior manager 19 that would be responsible for a number of 20 programs, and in addition --21 22 COFFEY, Q.C.: Q. And that senior manager would report to? 23 24 MR. TILLEY: A. The CEO. Page 216 1 COFFEY, Q.C.: Q. Sister Davis, at the time? 3 MR. TILLEY: A. Yes. 5 COFFEY, Q.C.: Q. So the one change that has occurred is that 7 physicians are now reporting to a physician 8 clinical leader or clinical chief, who's 9 reporting to a senior manager, who's reporting to the CEO? 10 11 MR. TILLEY: A. It's not as neat as that. 13 COFFEY, Q.C.: Q. Okay. Perhaps you could expand on that for 14

me. First of all, is that true in one sense? 15

16 MR. TILLEY:

17 A. Only in terms of really the non-medical

issues. 18

19 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. For example, whether or not you show up today 20

to work, that kind of --21

22 MR. TILLEY:

A. Yes. 23

24 COFFEY, O.C.:

25 Q. Scheduling and --

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Q. Now in the program based model, you've

A. Yes.

24 COFFEY, O.C.:

Ap	111 13, 2000	u-i age	inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing
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1	MR. TILLEY:	1	Commissioner about how did it go as it was
2	A. I mean, there's no doubt that the clinical	2	implemented, in a general way.
3	chiefs were selected through a process of	3 MR.	TILLEY:
4	advertising positions and more often than not,	4 A.	Well, it was a very challenging process. We
5	they came about accepting their roles because	5	had not only taken on a much larger
6	somebody had suggested that they would take	6	organization, that none of us really had had
7	the lead, but they had very little interest in	7	any experience in dealing with an organization
8	the day to day management of the program, but	8	that large, five to six thousand staff, and on
9	it gave the professional leader, the	9	top of that we were changing the way the
10	professional directors, somebody to go to if	10	organization was structured and putting in new
11	there were issues where physicians were	11	processes. On top of that, we were making
12	needed to be involved in a particular	12	decisions with regards to how many physical
13	decision, but the point I was going to refer	13	plants we should have and, of course, that
14	to in response to your question, there was	14	decision was made, and then the planning had
15	still a Medical Advisory Committee, and the	15	to be initiated to implement that. I guess,
16	Medical Advisory Committee would consist of	16	suffice to say, we were doing that as quickly
17	the clinical chiefs of all of the programs,	17	as one could and in an environment that all
18	and because of the organization's	18	health care organizations seem to face, and
19	responsibility and involvement in the teaching	19	that is under times of financial restraint.
20	of professions at Memorial University, the	20	So we worked long hours, very hard. We were
21	Medical Advisory Committee would also include		doing a number of things simultaneous where
22	what we know as the Discipline Chairs. So that	22	you may have preferred to say that we would
23	would be the Chief of Pediatrics or the Chief	22 23	have the program structure in place and then
1			- ·
24	of Radiology. So the physicians still had that	24	begin the planning for the new sites, but, in
25	opportunity to go through Medical Advisory and	25	fact, we were doing that as a parallel
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1	then on to the Board. There was a little	1	initiative. So it was quite a significant
2	splinter group known as the Clinical Chiefs	2	responsibility.
3	Committee which, of course, would have been		FEY, Q.C.:
4	MAC, less the Discipline Chairs, and that was	4 Q.	The site closures and relocations during that
5	more of a working committee on any issues that	5	period were what?
6	just to bring the group together to		TILLEY:
7	coordinate various entities that were of	7 A.	The decisions were to close the Children's
8	importance to them, or to the Vice President	8	Rehabilitation Centre, the former Janeway, and
9	of Medical Services, that really wasn't	9	the Grace General Hospital. I know that the
10	needing to go to the Medical Advisory	10	Children's Rehabilitation Centre which is down
11	Committee per se.	11	in Pleasantville, I think, closed first to
12	COFFEY, Q.C.:	12	move into the old Janeway. The Grace Hospital
13	Q. Okay, so with that as a background, and I will	13	was next, and then the Janeway under the Child
14	be coming back to that particularly in	14	Health Program relocated to the new space
15	relation to the program that well, programs	15	adjacent to at the Health Sciences Complex.
16	that the Commissioner will end up dealing with	16 COFI	FEY, Q.C.:
17	in detail. This is the mid 90s, you've signed	17 Q.	And do you recall what year the Grace closed?
18	on for this.		TILLEY:
1	MR. TILLEY:		I don't, off the top of my head.
20	A. Yes.		FEY, Q.C.:
	COFFEY, Q.C.:		Were you involved at all in the like, in
22	Q. You are the Senior Vice President. You were	22	that closure, and the relocation of the
23	there, I believe according to your CV, page	23	clinical services from that site to St.
24	two of P-0315, you were there from February	24	Clare's and the General?
	o o i i o o i o i o i o i o i o i o	ı - -	
25	'95 to June '99. You can start by telling the	25 MR 7	TILLEY:

5

4

13

25

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2 move, so it's possible that it may have

happened when I was away. 3

4 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. And how about the planing for it in terms of

A. I can't visualize myself in the middle of that

the relocation of the services? 6

7 MR. TILLEY:

8 A. I had a major responsibility to oversee that

planning process. We had actually recruited a 9 10

planning team responsible for consulting with

the various programs and supports, and then 11

starting to put guidelines around what the new 12

space needs might be and working with 13

architects and the like to see how that could 14

be achieved. 15

16 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. In terms of relocating and because the 17

Janeway, generally, from what you've told us, 18

I gather moved more or less as an entity, 19

relocated from the east end of Pleasantville 20

onto the General Hospital site.

22 MR. TILLEY:

21

A. Yes, predominantly their clinical services, of 23

course, the support services could have gone 24

25 anywhere.

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1 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. Sure, but the clinical services, I'm sorry, is 2

what I was referring to and have moved on 3

mass, across St. John's when they did. The 4

Grace, I gather that wasn't so? 5

6 MR. TILLEY:

A. No.

8 COFFEY, O.C.:

Q. Clinical services ended up being split up?

10 MR. TILLEY:

A. That's correct.

12 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. Do you recall whether or not there was any 13

concerns raised about who would go where? 14

15 MR. TILLEY:

25

A. I have no doubt that there would have been. I 16

17 know that staff--there was some comments by

staff that they were going to be split up and 18

19 for them, of course, split up would mean

either going to the General Hospital/Health 20

Science Centre site or St. Clare's; so whereas 21

22 the Janeway group were moving and they would

reach a new location pretty much with the same 23

peers, the staff in the operating room at the 24

Grace could have gone to either of the adult

sites.

2 COFFEY, O.C.:

Q. And I take it that also would have been true 3

of the clinical laboratory at the Grace?

5 MR. TILLEY:

A. I suspect so, though I can't specifically 6

recall. 7

8 COFFEY, O.C.:

Q. Okay. Do you recall whether or not in your 10

position as senior vice-president during the

period of '95 to '99 you were ever called upon 11

to address, what I'll refer to as cultural 12

issues in the sense of moving across the city

14 from one hospital to another and any problems

with integration of staff? Were you ever 15

16 asked to get involved in anything like that?

17 MR. TILLEY:

A. I can't recall, but I -

19 COFFEY, O.C.:

Q. I'm not suggesting you could -20

21 MR. TILLEY:

A. No, I don't recall. I mean, I -

23 COFFEY, O.C.:

Q. Issues being brought to your attention and you 24

being expected to address them?

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1 MR. TILLEY:

A. Well I can only recall the fact that there

were people who felt that they were losing 3

their team, the team was being fragmented. If 4

5 there were issues that I felt I might have

been able to help resolve, then I certainly 6

7 was very open to meeting with people.

8 COFFEY, O.C.:

Q. Where did you go from there?

10 MR. TILLEY:

11 A. I left there and went to the Workplace Health

Safety and Compensation Commission in the 12

position as chief executive officer and 13

Workers' Compensation is an organization that 14

is responsible for providing compensation to 15

workers throughout the province who may have

17 experienced a workplace injury.

18 COFFEY, Q.C.:

16

Q. And you were there from what period?

20 MR. TILLEY:

21 A. From July '99 to October of 2000.

22 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. Was there any particular reason you moved? 23

24 MR. TILLEY:

25 A. Well, yes, I felt at that point in time that I

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needed a change and there was an opportunity.		very similar to the discussions that we had
There were a lot of busy years that I had just	2	earlier, in terms of there being a senior
3 completed at the Health Care Corporation and	1 3	management/executive team that would be
4 at that point in time I was thinking that	4	responsible for different components of the
5 maybe something other than health care would	d 5	organization. There would be a medical
6 be something that I would like to pursue.	6	advisory committee that would have still
7 COFFEY, Q.C.:	7	existed that would have had their Chair sit on
8 Q. You were there until October of 2000?	8	the Board of Trustees. And as I recall it
9 MR. TILLEY:	9	now, in addition to the Chair of Medical
10 A. Yes.	10	Advisory, I think the president of the Medical
11 COFFEY, Q.C.:	11	Staff Organization also sat on the Board and
12 Q. And what happened then?	12	the Medical Staff Organization is sort of the,
13 MR. TILLEY:	13	dare I say the union local of the physician
14 A. Well, as time went on when I was with the	14	group. You know, it didn't have the issues
Workplace Health Safety and Compensatio	n 15	for quality that the Medical Advisory
16 Commission, the CEO had made a decision to	16	Committee Chair would have, but that person
step down.	17	would have represented the views of the
18 COFFEY, Q.C.:	18	medical staff at large. Of course, in
19 Q. That's the CEO of the Health Care Corporation	? 19	addition to the services, again, that are
20 MR. TILLEY:	20	directly delivered, which were both local and
21 A. Yes, sorry, Sister Elizabeth Davis. So there	21	provincial in nature, the issue with regards
were a number of suggestions that I should	22	to the academic responsibilities continued and
seriously consider pursuing that position and	23	that was again in relation to our
24 what I found as time went on when I was with	n 24	responsibility for medical education, so we
25 the Commission, my yearning for health care	25	would have had a close relationship with
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grew and I felt that I wanted to be a part of	1	Memorial. And also, by that time, I was
2 it again and while it would not be my	2	starting to think about the need for the
3 preference to have such a short stay with an	3	organization to become stronger in its
4 employer, I realized that if I was ever going	4	research activities. I remember having a
5 to go back into health care, that this was the	5	discussion with one of the physicians about
6 opportunity and if I was to forego it, then it	6	creating a learning environment and wanting to
7 was to forego it indefinitely.	7	be on the leading edge, so we really started
8 COFFEY, Q.C.:	8	looking for opportunities to put research more
9 Q. So what happened?	9	on our agenda and in fact, there was some
10 MR. TILLEY:	10	major initiatives underway which have
11 A. I applied, I went through the interview	11	culminated recently, I understand, with
process and got selected for that position and	12	regards to creating research space. So we had
as you can see that that occurred in 2000,	13	education, we had research and we had this
14 October.	14	responsibility for services, health services.
15 COFFEY, Q.C.:	15 COFF	FEY, Q.C.:
16 Q. Okay, so you're president and chief executive	16 Q.	And so you reported to the Board of Trustees
office of the Health Care Corporation of St.	17	of the Health Care Corporation. You provided,
John's beginning in the fall of 2000. What	18	I take it that organization or facility
19 did that involve?	19	provided some services province wide, which I
20 MR. TILLEY:	20	gather are referred to as tertiary care
21 A. Well, being responsible for a very large and	21	services. How involved were you in that? Who
diverse organization. I've obviously, by this	22	was responsible within the organization for
time, had the benefit of my years of	23	that?
24 experience as a senior vice-president and I	24 MR. 7	
25 would have reported to a Board of Trustees an	d 25 A.	There wouldn't have been any one particular

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1 individual. Children's health wasthe major		And geographically, I don't know what the
2 part of children's health was tertiary in	2	number of times it had increased by, it would
a nature; that being, it wouldn't be provided in	3	be 50, 60 or 100 times, I don't know off the
4 any other site. There were some surgical	4	top of my head, but the point is, I want to
5 services that would be tertiary in nature and	5	ask you about is this, you understood the
6 they would, of course, report to perhaps	6	government was going to go this route of
7 another vice-president within the	7	collapsing, I think it was six or seven -
8 organization. So it wasn't organized along	8 MR. T	
9 provincial or secondary or primary lines.		Seven, I believe.
10 COFFEY, Q.C.:	10 COFF	
11 Q. Okay. And then looking at your C.V., your		Seven health authorities or boards into one.
time with the Health Care Corporation ends in	12	You didn't choose, I take it, to apply for the
December of 2005. In January of 2005, you're	13	position?
the president and CEO of the Eastern Regional-	14 MR. T	•
15 -I gather it should be Integrated Health		Yes, I did. I went through a similar process.
16 Authority. Could you tell us, please, what	16	Back in the fall of 2004, I believe the chair
you know about how that came about and how yo		of the board had been named, I'm not certain
ended up with that position?	18	that the other members would be -
19 MR. TILLEY:	19 COFF	
20 A. Government had made a decision to restructure		Who is that?
21 health services in the province again. This	21 MR. T	
time there was an interest in more integration	22 A.	That would be Joan Dawe and I recall being
23 along the continuum and as you've alluded to	23	interviewed by a panel that included her and
24 with, in comparison to the Health Care	24	some staff from the Department of Health, so
25 Corporation that was more on the delivery of	25	that was happening towards the end of 2004 and
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services or the treatment aspect, what the	1	shortly, the four or I think it was over the
2 Eastern Health did was brought in the other	2	Christmas season, in fact, that I would have
dimensions, such as supportive care, in terms		met with Mrs. Dawe and she had offered that
4 of long-term care or child protection and it	4	position to me.
5 would have brought in more involvement in v	what 5 COFF	EY, Q.C.:
6 I call the upstream issues, such as health		And again in relation to that, you understood
7 promotion and illness prevention, so very mu		what it was that you were signing on for,
8 and all inclusive type of arrangement. Just	8	getting yourself into?
9 recalling that the other three authorities, it	9 MR. T	
was geographic base and they were of varying	$_{10}$ $_{10}$ $_{A}$	I did, sir.
sizes, but certainly Eastern Health was the	11 COFF	
largest, perhaps even larger than the other		Okay. And you remained, I take it, with
three combined.	13	Eastern Health until July of 2007?
14 COFFEY, Q.C.:	14 MR. T	•
15 Q. Now just again looking at your C.V. and the	e 15 A.	That's correct.
rough numbers for the Health Care Corporation		EY, Q.C.:
number of staff, approximately 6500 staff and	d 17 Q.	Okay, and I'll be speaking to you about the
500 physicians. Looking at page one of P-	18	time period involving the end of your time
19 0315, 12,000 staff and 700 physicians and	19	there later. I'm just going to ask you now
surgeons, that was the organization	20	about your prior dealings with certain
21 approximately doubled in size that you were		individuals. If I could and I'll just begin
22 managing?	22	with Joan Dawe. In what context had you known
23 MR. TILLEY:	23	Joan Dawe?
24 A. That's correct.	24 MR. T	TILLEY:
25 COFFEY, Q.C.:	25 A.	I had known Joan for a number of years,
•		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

Page 233 Page 235 perhaps going back to certainly my Janeway 1 1 MR. TILLEY: 2 days, maybe even before that. She was a A. She was actually Chair--she was Chair of the manager at the St. Clare's Hospital and then I Health and Community Services Board in St. 3 3 next recall her as the executive director of John's, which was one of the entities that 4 4 the St. John's Hospital Council, which was an subsequently came on to Eastern Health and 5 5 entity that was established to provide for you're right, she was on the Health Care 6 6 greater collaboration amongst the city Corporation of St. John's Board. 7 7 8 hospitals and also to come up with a master 8 COFFEY, Q.C.: plan for how the future of the cite should be Q. And as the CEO of the Health Care Corporation 9 10 in St. John's. Then I recall that she moved 10 of St. John's, in fact, as a CEO of Eastern to government and a recollection that she Health, you would have attended Board 11 11 12 spent some time in the Department of Social 12 meetings? Services and maybe some time in the Department 13 MR. TILLEY: 13 14 of Health. 14 A. Yes. 15 COFFEY, O.C.: 15 COFFEY, O.C.: Q. Would you have had any dealings with her while Q. Let's see, John Abbott. 16 she was with the Department of Health, do you 17 MR. TILLEY: 17 18 know? 18 A. John Abbott, I think my first involvement with John came when he was doing a review for 19 MR. TILLEY: 19 government of the expenses of the Health Care A. Undoubtedly would have been into dealings with 20 20 her on issues between the, both organizations Corporation and if my memory is right, he was 21 21 22 and government. 22 with Treasury Board. 23 COFFEY, Q.C.: 23 COFFEY, Q.C.: Q. And that would be in your capacity at one 24 Q. Uh-hm. point as the senior vice-president of the 25 25 MR. TILLEY: Page 234 Page 236 Health Care Corporation? A. And had been asked to do some review of costs 1 1 2 MR. TILLEY: 2 with the aim to see if there were A. I'm certain there was contact with government 3 opportunities to reduce costs further. My because it was happening at multiple levels, next recollection is that in the early part of 4 4 5 but my recollection is that she was the deputy 5 my tenure with the Health Care Corporation of minister in the Department of Health. So St. John's, a consulting group were brought in 6 6 7 predominantly I suspect her contact would have 7 to identify potential cost savings and there 8 been with the CEO. was a steering committee established that, I 8 believe was chaired by the deputy minister of 9 COFFEY, Q.C.: the day, Mr. Thompson. Q. And depending upon the timeframe, it could 10 10 have been yourself or Sister Elizabeth? 11 11 COFFEY, Q.C.: Q. Robert Thompson. 12 MR. TILLEY: 12 A. Yes, and I can't recall if our time overlapped 13 MR. TILLEY: 13 A. Robert Thompson and I believe John Abbott 14 or not. 14 actually sat on that steering committee. 15 COFFEY, Q.C.: 15 Q. But you knew her in that, in either the 16 COFFEY, O.C.: 16 17 governmental context or the health care in St. 17 Q. And this would be the HayGroup, I take it? John's context? 18 MR. TILLEY: 18 19 MR. TILLEY: A. Yes, you're correct. 20 A. Yes. 20 COFFEY, O.C.: 21 COFFEY, Q.C.: O. Go ahead. Q. As well at one point was she, did she 22 MR. TILLEY: 22 represent any organization with respect to the A. And the next recollection I have is that he 23 23 Health Care Corporation of St. John's Board, 24 24 was appointed as the Chair of the Health Care does she sit on the Board? 25 Corporation of St. John's Board of Trustees. 25

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1 COFFEY, Q.C.:		just named, Robert Thompson.
2 Q. Do you recall approximately when that was or	2 MR. TII	LLEY:
what you were doing at the time?	3 A.	Yes. My first time meeting Robert was when he
4 MR. TILLEY:	4	was appointed the deputy minister of health.
5 A. I would have been CEO at that time, but I	5	And actually that seemed to have coincided
6 can't tell you the actual date of his	6	with my arrival back in the Health Care
7 appointment.	7	Corporation of St. John's.
8 COFFEY, Q.C.:	8 COFFE	Y, Q.C.:
9 Q. So it would have been before 2005 because that	9 Q.	Which would be the fall of 2000?
10 was Eastern Health -	10 MR. TII	LLEY:
11 MR. TILLEY:	11 A.	Yes, would have known him in that capacity.
12 A. That was Eastern Health.	12 COFFE	Y, Q.C.:
13 COFFEY, Q.C.:	13 Q.	So it would be at all unusual, as in your
Q. So sometime during the period October 2000 to	14	capacity as a CEO of the Health Care
December 2004?	15	Corporation or for that matter, Eastern
16 MR. TILLEY:	16	Health, to be direct contact with the deputy
17 A. I remember it was over the Christmas season, I	17	minister of the day, whomever he or she was?
think there was a change, if I can just try to	18 MR. TII	
think through, I could probably get the date	19 A.	That's correct.
20 for you.	20 COFFE	
21 COFFEY, Q.C.:		And Robert Thompson was certainly one such DM
22 Q. No, that will be fine, it's just to canvass	22	and John Abbott was another.
with you in the context that you did deal with	23 MR. TII	LLEY:
him at one point while you were CEO of the	24 A.	Yes.
25 Health Care Corporation, for a period of time	25 COFFE	Y, Q.C.:
Page 238		Page 240
1 he was the Chair of the Board of Trustees?	1 Q.	Okay. How about aswe understand and it's a
2 MR. TILLEY:	2	matter of public record that Mr. Thompson was,
3 A. Yes.	3	at one point, clerk of council.
4 COFFEY, Q.C.:	4 MR. TI	ILLEY:
5 Q. And you had known him before, you actually	5 A.	Yes.
6 reported to him.	6 COFFE	EY, Q.C.:
7 MR. TILLEY:	7 Q.	Would you have had any dealings with him in
8 A. Yes.	8	his capacity of clerk?
9 COFFEY, Q.C.:	9 MR. TI	ILLEY:
10 Q. And the Board.	10 A.	Really, no, other than exchange of a personal
11 MR. TILLEY:	11	note. I just remember when he left to go
12 A. Reported to the Board. And then, of course,	12	there, he wrote me a note saying, you know,
he would have went on to become deputy		thanks for the working relationship. And
minister of health, so that's where I would	14	beyond that there would have been, really, no

15 have had a continued involvement with him.

16 COFFEY, Q.C.:

17 Q. As he moved from Chair of the Board of

18 Trustees, I don't know about directly, but

more or less to become deputy minister of

health? 20

19

21 MR. TILLEY:

22 A. Yes, and of course, the Chair was a voluntary

position. 23

24 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. Yes. I'll pick another one, the person you 25

dealings up until late, or spring of last year 15

16 when we started talking about the Inquiry and

17 the follow-up to it.

18 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. Pick some of the ministers of the day, okay. 19

John Ottenheimer? 20

21 MR. TILLEY:

22 A. Knew him by reputation, but really had no

23 direct contact with him until he became

24 minister.

25 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Multi-Page TM Page 241 Page 243 whatever the term might be, I don't recall a Q. Okay. And I'll be talking to you about your 1 1 2 dealings with him as minister. Tom Osborne? 2 lot of involvement with him at that time. 3 MR. TILLEY: 3 COFFEY, O.C.: A. The same. Q. And then when he became minister, you would have had contact with him at that point? 5 COFFEY, Q.C.: 5 Q. Okay. Ross Wiseman? 6 MR. TILLEY: 7 MR. TILLEY: A. That's correct. 8 A. I knew Mr. Wiseman before. He had actually 8 COFFEY, Q.C.: worked in a senior management capacity with O. Oscar Howell? 9 10 the Peninsulas Health Care Organization which 10 MR. TILLEY: is one of the organizations that came together 11 11 A. Dr. Howell I had known in a social context for to become Eastern Health. And he may have 12 12 maybe going back eight to ten years ago. We actually been a human resource manager when it had mutual friends, so that sometimes brought 13 13 was just Clarenville before Peninsulas. I us together. He had worked in a professional 14 14 capacity for the Health Care Corporation of can't pull out the details at the moment, and 15 15 16 one of the projects that was happening at the 16 St. John's dealing with employee health and time that we were both involved in, was called wellness and he had an interest in some 17 17 a Health Information Task Force. And that was training in occupational medicine, so he was 18 18 19 an initiative that was trying to put some 19 brought in in that capacity, and subsequently, scope and direction to where the province of course, when the vacancy came up for the 20 20 should go in the information capacity IT area vice-president of Medical Services, he had 21 21 22 and that was actually chaired by Sister 22 expressed, applied for it and was successful Elizabeth Davis. When I recall she was at St. in getting that position. 23 23 24 COFFEY, O.C.: Clare's, I was invited to become a member of 24

> Q. Bob Williams? Page 242

there. 1

25

2 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. That would be the early 1990s?

4 MR. TILLEY:

A. Was my Janeway days, so, sorry for having to 5 look, but yeah, it would have been the early 6 7 90s, '92, '93, '94, '95.

that task force and Mr. Wiseman was also

8 COFFEY, O.C.:

Q. Yes. That topic will come up again, 9 Commissioner. So you knew him in that 10 capacity, you met him there and how about 11 afterward? 12

13 MR. TILLEY:

24

25

A. He chose to run for government and--or as an 14 15 elected official. There may have been sporadic communique while he was with the 16 Liberal party and I'm just trying to remember 17 the--and then he moved to the Progressive 18 19 Conservatives. From time to time, he may call on a particular issue, but that would be very 20 limited and then, of course, he went on to 21 22 become minister. There was a period of time that I know he was working in the Department 23

of Health in some other capacity. I'm not

sure if it was parliamentary assistant or

1 MR. TILLEY:

A. Bob Williams I would have first met, I suspect, back in my Waterford time. I think 3 he may have been an associate deputy minister 4 5 perhaps at the time.

6 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. With the Department of Health? 7

8 MR. TILLEY:

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A. With the Department of Health and subsequently went on to become the deputy minister. So we've certainly had dealings with the department when he was in that position. The position of vice-president of Medical Services became vacant at the Health Care Corporation of St. John's and Dr. Williams was one of the candidates and was subsequently recruited as the vice-president for Medical Services in that organization and certainly I would have had dealings with him in that capacity.

20 COFFEY, O.C.:

O. So when he came to work was the VP medical, I'll refer to it, with the Health Care Corporation, that would have been in the mid nineties, late nineties, do you know? What I'm asking is when you were senior VP there -

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			<u> </u>
	Page 245		Page 247
1	MR. TILLEY:	1	1
2	A. Yes, that's correct, it was not while I was	2	1 7
3	CEO, so it would be more in the mid to late.	3	minister position.
4	COFFEY, Q.C.:	4	COFFEY, Q.C.:
5	Q. If you were senior vice-president, did he	5	
6	report to you?	6	1
7	MR. TILLEY:	7	,
8	A. No, he didn't. The designation of senior	8	moved and went up.
9	basically meant that when the CEO was away,	9	MR. TILLEY:
10	that I was expected to deal with any matters	10	A. Yes, and she was probably doing the same.
11	that might come up.	11	COFFEY, Q.C.:
12	COFFEY, Q.C.:	12	•
13	Q. But when the CEO was present, you were all	13	have been aware and at times had dealings with
14	kind of -	14	her?
15	MR. TILLEY:	15	5 MR. TILLEY:
16	A. Right, we were all on the same level.	16	6 A. Yes.
17	COFFEY, Q.C.:	17	COFFEY, Q.C.:
18	Q. Equals. Do you recall who recruited Dr.	18	
19	Williams?	19	take an afternoon break.
20	MR. TILLEY:	1) THE COMMISSIONER:
21	A. Yes, I sat in on a selection committee.	21	
22	Sister Elizabeth would have been there. There	22	
23	were a couple of other -	1	3 COFFEY, Q.C.:
	COFFEY, Q.C.:	24	
25	Q. I ask that just because, not so much, you	25	(RECESS)
	Page 246		Page 248
1	Page 246 know, listen to the job interview, but you	1	Page 248 THE COMMISSIONER:
1 2	•	1 2	THE COMMISSIONER:
	know, listen to the job interview, but you used the word "recruited" and that has connotations of actually going and getting	2	THE COMMISSIONER:
2	know, listen to the job interview, but you used the word "recruited" and that has	2	THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Please be seated. Mr. Coffey? COFFEY, Q.C.: Q. Thank you, Commissioner. Mr. Tilley, I gather
3	know, listen to the job interview, but you used the word "recruited" and that has connotations of actually going and getting somebody, you know, encouraging them to apply, was it that kind of context or was it he just	3	THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Please be seated. Mr. Coffey? COFFEY, Q.C.: Q. Thank you, Commissioner. Mr. Tilley, I gather you've had a lot of time to think about this
2 3 4	know, listen to the job interview, but you used the word "recruited" and that has connotations of actually going and getting somebody, you know, encouraging them to apply,	2 3 4	THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Please be seated. Mr. Coffey? COFFEY, Q.C.: Q. Thank you, Commissioner. Mr. Tilley, I gather you've had a lot of time to think about this
2 3 4 5 6	know, listen to the job interview, but you used the word "recruited" and that has connotations of actually going and getting somebody, you know, encouraging them to apply, was it that kind of context or was it he just simply applied for the job and -	2 3 4 5 6	THE COMMISSIONER: Q. Please be seated. Mr. Coffey? COFFEY, Q.C.: Q. Thank you, Commissioner. Mr. Tilley, I gather you've had a lot of time to think about this while matter. MR. TILLEY:
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Ap	ril 15, 2008 Muli	n-Page	Inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing
	Page 249		Page 251
1 1	MR. TILLEY:	1	directly involved with, with the lab. And I
2	A. Well my recollection brings me back to July of	2	recall some reference to Dr. Cook, who would
3	2005 and that's a date that I had recorded in	3	have been the clinical chief of the Laboratory
4	a log book that I use when I have telephone	4	Medicine Program and Mr. Gulliver, Terry
5	conversations with people. I can't guarantee	5	Gulliver, who would have been the program
6	that it's one hundred percent accurate because	6	director for the lab. And they were doing an
7	there's times, of course, that I would be	7	investigation in terms of or at least lots of
8	taking calls in other locations. I received a	8	discussions in terms of whether, you know,
9	call around July 7th, could be the 8th, but	9	this is specific to a particular year, trying
10	July 7th is the earlier date that's recorded	10	to anticipate what the potential causes might
11	from Dr. Williams, who is the vice-president	11	have been. So I know that he was still
12	of Medical Services, to raise an issue about	12	working through some of those issues for that
13	the test used to identify receptors, estrogen	13	week. At a later point, two groups that were
14	and progesterone receptors that's used to	14	important to bring into that discussion;
15	identify whether a patient can benefit from a	15	namely the Department of Health and the Board
16	drug known as Tamoxifen. My recollection at	16	Chair, were apprised of the situation. The
17	that time was that over the previous few weeks	17	Board Chair, through a contact with me,
18	he had been doing some or a lot of work had	18	through an e-mail because I think at that time
19	been going on with regards to this issue, that	19	she was away on vacation. And I know there
20	they had reached a point where they felt this	20	was some opportunity to discuss it with her in
21	was more than just an isolated situation and	21	more detail later. Government had been
22	that on retesting, there were some patients	22	apprised of the situation, I can't be sure
23	whose results had changed from negative to	23	exactly how, but I know that there was a
24	positive. During that conversation, he had	24	discussion through some level in the
25	referenced, I'm reflecting on the notes that	25	organization. I'm recalling that that
	Page 250)	Page 252
1	I've recently reviewed, he had reflected or I	$\begin{vmatrix} 1 \end{vmatrix}$	discussion precipitated a call to me by the
2	had in my notes a reference to Bonnell and	2	Minster of Health and Community Services, Mr.
3	Predham. Susan Bonnell is the director of	3	Ottenheimer, and he was obviously equally
4	communications and Heather Predham, I think	4	concerned. We were talking about the
5	may have been the acting director of quality	5	implications of this and the importance of
6	initiatives at that point in time. I am	6	getting it resolved and I think there was an
7	working on the basis that he would have	7	echoing of the point about this issue needs to
8	identified those two individuals as people	8	be talked about publicly as soon as possible.
9	that he would need to contact in light of the	9	The time goes on and the next thing that I can
10	issue. He went on to say it's important that	10	recall is that I actually got involved, maybe
11	we talk about this publicly as quickly as	11	in the subsequent week in one of the meetings
12	possible and I have a note which refers to Dr.	12	that Dr. Williams was having with, I'm
13	Ejeckam and I'm not sure what the reference	13	thinking the lab leadership team,
14	was at that time because I know there was a	14	representatives from quality and
15	reference within a couple of days to a	15	communications, I think were there, to
16	conversation about Dr. Ejeckam. So suffice to	16	participate in the discussion. I'm not sure
17	say that from that moment on, the impact of	17	if I'm getting all the sequence of events
18	that call really hasn't gone far from my mind.	18	right, but shortly thereafter a group actually
19	The context, this is in July, I'm thinking in	19	went in to meet with the minister to apprise
20	May and June, the new executive team for	20	him of the situation in more detail. And I
21	Eastern Health has just come together. So	21	recall that both Dr. Williams and Dr. Cook
22	here we are tasked with bringing this massive	22	would have been there because the issue for me
23	organization together and this issue has come	23	was to make sure that the minister was hearing
24	to the forefront. There is a recollection	24	it directly from people who understood it and
25	that there's a lot of work going on that he's	25	could articulate it. I remember at that point
	that there is a fee of work going on that he is	122	Tours armounted in Fromomoor at that point

Page 253 Page 255 in time, the 20th or 21st or 22nd, I can't be originally envisaged, because Dr. Williams had 1 1 talked about this going public very early and 2 sure of the dates, of July, simultaneous or 2 even to the point of the Communications just before that meeting some information had 3 3 been compiled which looked at one of the Department having drafted up the press 4 4 benchmarks that is known to be looked at when releases or samples of press releases. But at 5 5 6 you deal with this type of test and the that point in time, this is after the meeting 6 7 benchmark has to do with the what could be with the minister, he had--the communications 7 expected to be on average the level of 8 8 director had indicated to me that the idea of positivity of this particular test. And that 9 a common press release was not the solution 9 10 range actually changed and got more fine tuned 10 that she was espousing but rather more as time went on, but initially I recall some individual follow-up with patients on the 11 11 reference to 50 to 85 percent of patients who basis that here was a defined group that we 12 12 are treated with this could be expected to be were aware of and should make contact but also 13 13 The information that I was referencing the need to consult with the 14 14 15 recalling was a spreadsheet which showed the oncologists. So I think that was fairly soon 15 16 positivity rates for several years going back 16 after that meeting. and the positivity rate for a couple of the The meeting with the oncologists and lab 17 17 years, more recent years was showing to be that I recall me sitting in on occurred in the 18 18 within range. And then the question has been early part of August, and there were 19 19 raised, like, have we had a false start here, discussions then around this whole issue. I 20 20 did we come across something that was isolated suspect by then they had obvious awareness to 21 21 22 or was it something that was unique to a 22 this. I can't recall, by the way--I recall particular period, so all of a sudden we were initially that this was focused in on the year 23 23 presented with maybe this is not the situation 2002. So I'm not sure--I would expect at that 24 24 that we thought it was. So the meeting with point in time that the positivity rates that 25 25 Page 254 Page 256 the minister went ahead and we talked with were being talked about would have been shared 1 1 2 him. He had a chance to talk about or talk 2 with them. 3 with the chief, the Clinical Chief for 3 I don't have off the top of my head a better familiarity with what was said, though Laboratory Medicine, Dr. Cook, and get an 4 4 5 appreciation for this issue. The--I recall 5 I do have notes that I referenced to that the minister being concerned, wanting to be meeting if you wanted me to speak to it in 6 6 sure that this is acted upon. I recall 7 7 more detail, I could probably suggest that we discussing how we might do that because of the get that note, otherwise I'll just sort of 8 8 9 issue of writing patients who were impacted 9 keep going? was raised. We also acknowledged the fact 10 COFFEY, Q.C.: 10 11 that oncologists, who are a major partner in 11 Q. You can keep going because we'll come back to 12 the treatment of breast disease, needed to be 12 13 included in a discussion and that was going to 13 MR. TILLEY: be arranged. So we left the minister 14 14 A. Okay. 15 essentially with the intent of having further 15 COFFEY, Q.C.:

and report our findings.

The next couple of weeks or week there was continued discussion around how are we going to follow-up on this issue. And I remember getting some input through a memo from the Communications Department actually suggesting that the approach that was

communications, continuing to delve more into

this issue and I believe there might have even

been a follow-up meeting set up to come back

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22 COFFEY, Q.C.:23 Q. Of an overview.

perspective.

24 MR. TILLEY:

20 MR. TILLEY:

A. Right.

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25 A. Right. In the meantime, while the clinical

Q. - some of the stuff in detail. I'm just

trying to get some sense and have the

Commissioner get some sense of your

	Page 257		Page 259
1	people are sort of working through this issue,	1	parameters were being talked about.
2	the extent of it and the like, I recall being	2	I also recall some disagreement as to who
3	in some discussions with Susan in relation to	3	owned this issue. I'm not sure if owning is
4	what the various choices were here. And	4	the right word, but there was clearly
5	unfortunately, I can't put all the pieces	5	disagreement. I remember there being some
6	together because there was a point, and I	6	disagreement between Dr. Carter and Mr.
7	can't remember if it was in that first meeting	7	Gulliver, I can't tell you specifically what
8	that I attended with the oncologists or in a	8	that was. I don't think there was
9	meeting that happened a week or two later	9	disagreement, per se, between the pathologists
10	where the oncologists were taking a position	10	and the oncologists. But I do have a
11	about individual contact. But I'm suspecting	11	recollection of just my overall sense here
12	by that time there must have been varying	12	that here I was a CEO of one of the largest
13	options being put forward to the point that I	13	organizations, health organizations in this
14	had asked "Well, can you put together	14	country, I think we were top 20 or something,
15	something that I can review in terms of the	15	just trying to embark on bringing it together
16	strengths and weaknesses of various options?"	16	and here I was facing a major clinical issue
17	And that, those options were sort of a common	17	and involved in a situation where, you know,
18	press release, personal contact with the	18	there was discussions going on and saying,
19	patients, and I thought there was one other	19	"No, that's, you know, something that's in
20	that seems to have totally eluded me at the	20	your camp," or "that's something that's in
21	moment. So that sort of discussion was going	21	your camp," going back and forth.
22	on simultaneous to this.	22	It actually occurred to me about four
23	We do have then this subsequent meeting	23	week ago in one of my quiet moments of
24	that I recall participating in and there is	24	reflection about that meeting. I remembered
25	undoubtedly others that were going on but I	25	saying or having to say, "The patient has got
	Page 258		Page 260
1	wasn't involved in all of them, but this one I	1	to be our focus here, not ourselves." So I
		l	

particularly remember had pathologists, oncologists, Dr. Cook, for example, I think Dr. Bev Carter, another pathologist, Dr. Laing, an oncologist, Dr. McCarthy, another oncologist, may have been a surgeon there, Dr. Kwan seems to ring a bell, and then Dr. Williams, Heather Predham, who would have been the acting director, Susan Bonnell and Terry Gulliver. I sort of visualize the room here and who's there. During that meeting a lot of discussion around ranges of positivity, discussions around the evolving protocols, for lack of a better word, in terms of when it would be best to offer Tamoxifen to a patient and that was with specific regard to the positivity rate, because at one point in time that rate referred to or was anybody who was 30 percent positive or more would benefit from it and we were hearing, I was hearing the discussion which said you can go down to 10

to be our focus here, not ourselves." So I said, "Well, that's a great revelation" when I'm there thinking about this. But subsequently was reminded when I got some of the exhibits that you were using of my account of that meeting that on the tail end it said "Patient first." So I realized at that moment that that late night recollection was actually a reality.

I think that was also the meeting that we had some further discussions on how we're going to deal with the follow-up, the notification process. Now, I should sort of, before I get into that issue, one thing was never debated, always assumed, don't recall it ever being different other than the intent was that we had to follow-up with all patients who had been impacted by this.

And I think it was at that meeting that one of the oncologists made a statement that I recall, and that is "A patient can benefit from Tamoxifen even as long as seven or ten years later." And from that thought the focus was if we can make a difference for anyone, then we have to go through this.

percent, that was sort of a new standard, and

even discussions around going down as low as

one percent, which means anything that was positive could have that. So those two

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Page 261 So, having said that, back to the issue I 1 2 think I was getting to, which is the discussion on how we were going to follow-up 3 on this. The Department of Health had made a 4 recommendation subsequent to Dr. Williams' 5 6 thought about having a standard release or a 7 public release to use a letter to notify the patients and I'm not sure if I brought it up 8 or somebody else brought it up, but the 10 oncologists in their reflection on that felt 11 that we needed to find out the results of the 12 changes before any individual patient was 13 contacted. And as I understand the discussion, they felt that if there was a 14 contact made to say that "You had this test, 15 we now have a concern with regards to the 16 accuracy of this test, we're going back to 17 retest, we'll be in touch with you when 18 there's a result," that that process was 19 expected to bring a high level of anxiety to 20 the patient and they were speaking against 21 22 that.

> Now, just thinking about the retesting for a moment. Initially there was a thought that the retesting was going to be done in

thereafter was to actually allow for the 1 2 oncologists to directly speak with the minister so we could have a discussion about 3 how this was--or could understand the 4 rationale for the position that the 5 oncologists were taking. And it really 6 presented a dilemma. The people who are 7 dealing with patients who are fighting cancer 8 obviously were in a position to be able to 10 know how much it's affected those patients, and, I guess, suffice to say that the Minister 11 and I, and the others, felt that the idea of 12 going out in advance to raise this issue 13 without knowing the impact on any particular 14 patient could have the potential of negatively 15 16 impacting the patient. So the decision was to continue with a plan to deal with the 17 patient's results when they came back. The 18 next point I recall relates to the issue of 19 the equipment that had been installed the year 20 before, and I don't know if the word "VENTANA" 21 has come up in your previous interviews --22

23 COFFEY, Q.C.: Q. Oh, yes. 25 MR. TILLEY:

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house, but that was drawn into question when

the positivity rates were presented for that multi-year period and had shown that in the past few years the tests were certainly in range and certainly were on the high end of the range, but a question of being too high. So then that raised the question that maybe the problem here is that the current technology which had been put in a year or two before that was being over sensitive. So even the cases that they had looked at up to that point in time were even being questioned and I seem to recall some suggestion that the oncologists wait until those results are reaffirmed. So that was an extensive discussion, maybe lasted an hour or more, multiple people in the room.

I can't remember the direct follow-up on the clinical side, but I do remember after that having some subsequent conversations with representatives in the Department of Health as they were inquiring about the follow-up because I remember saying to them about the oncologists and their view. And what we decided to do either then or shortly

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A. Okay. That was the piece of equipment I was referring to that was now being raised as being overly sensitive. So that precipitated two things. One is to say if we don't have confidence in that particular piece of equipment, then we shouldn't be using it. So arrangements were made with a facility in Ontario, Mount Sinai, to have them do the tests for this particular issue on a goforward basis until that piece of technology could be evaluated. I'm thinking it's simultaneous, while our original intent was to retest the past specimens on the new VENTANA system, now a decision was made not to do that in-house, but to send it out to Mount Sinai. The turnaround time was to be six to eight weeks. So this is in early August, and the expectation was that in mid September/late September this information will be back to us in terms of what the results were on their retesting of it. The other issue that was starting to be raised was the uncertainty around this test in the first instance, and I recall receiving information including articles that really presented this test as

Apı	11 15, 2008 Mulu	i-Page	inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing
	Page 265		Page 267
1	being of less value than I think what I was	1	pretty startling. In any event, Dr. Pritzker
2	hearing people were assuming. It was clear	2	had said that this issue with regards to this
3	from those discussions that in Europe and in	3	particular test had been known to him and
4	the United States, there had been a	4	others. He was actually giving, I think his
5	recognition that this particular test has its	5	words were "credit to Newfoundland" for
6	limits, and there seemed to be more attention	6	pursuing this issue. We had chosen Mount
7	being paid to it either in terms of its	7	Sinai because Dr. Cook and others, I guess,
8	limitations or in terms of how do you minimize	8	Dr. Carter, had recognized it as one of the
9	its limitations. I, at this point in time was	9	sites in Canada who had what was known in
10	trying to I confess, probably even to	10	their profession as a "gold standard", and I
11	today, trying to understand how much of what	11	suspect that that was more known in the
12	was being seen in St. John's was a reflection	12	pathologies and technical area than it would
13	of the limitations that were being seen in the	13	have been known to me. So we knew that here
14	literature. I recall I'm assuming there's	14	was an individual who understood the
15	some discussions or phone calls or the like	15	limitations of the tests, had a high volume
16	going on in September, but I recall that Mount	16	lab, but either had brought sort of the
17	Sinai ran into problems and the wish to or	17	expertise around it to give us enough
18	our expectation that these results of the	18	confidence that their results we could have
19	retests were going to be back to us by the	19	some confidence in. I remember having a
20	time originally allotted was slipping away,	20	discussion with him as to how come this has
21	and Dr. Cook had been in contact with them and	21	been an issue in Europe and in Canada and
22	I was hearing reports around unexpected delays	22	appears to be talked about in the Canadian
23	that they were having. Of course, they were	23	context, but, you know, we're still saying
24	doing this on top of their existing workload.	24	that more work needs to be done. There was a
25	They were doing our new tests on a go-forward	25	whole bunch of things, actually, or contacts
	Page 266		Page 268
1	basis. So I thought that I might be able to	1	that I sort of took it upon myself while this
2	bring some influence to that issue and I would	2	was the follow up, collecting the names and
3	call my counterpart at Mount Sinai. I can't	3	specimens, and getting them out was happening.
4	remember that discussion specifically, but I	4	I called some individuals more on this issue
5	know that he either transferred me or referred	5	about whether it's a national problem or not,
6	me to the lab leader in Mount Sinai whose name	6	and one of the individuals I called was the
7	is Dr. Pritzer or	7	CEO of the Canadian Patient Safety Institute,
8 (COFFEY, Q.C.:	8	Phil Hassen. I had neglected to mention this
9	Q. Pritzker.	9	earlier, but the reason I had known Mr. Hassen
10 N	MR. TILLEY:	10	was because I was on the Board of Directors of
11	A. Pritzker. That conversation with Dr. Pritzker	11	the Canadian Patient Safety Institute, and
12	was for me to stress the importance to us to	12	that institute was created by the federal
13	get the results back as quickly as possible.	13	government in response to a recent research
14	They were endeavouring to do that, but ran	14	project that looked at the prevalence of
15	into their own problems. The other part of	15	adverse events in health care organizations,
16	that discussion that was particularly	16	and the research had actually identified
17	significant for me was that he was saying	17	something to the effect that on average seven
18	speaking to what I had already picked up	18	patients out of a hundred can will have
19	through some of the literature with regards to	19	likely experienced an adverse event in a
20	the limitations of this particular test, and	20	health care setting during their admission.
120		0.1	So I had been involved as a Board member on
21	the literature was saying in Europe there was	21	So I had been hivoryed as a Board member on
	the literature was saying in Europe there was 60 percent of the hospital's labs would not be	22	that organization and had been involved in a
21			
21 22	60 percent of the hospital's labs would not be	22	that organization and had been involved in a
21 22 23	60 percent of the hospital's labs would not be able to accurately give results for some	22 23	that organization and had been involved in a lot of the discussions that led to its

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Page 269 back to some of that later if you wish, but I 1 2 called Phil Hassen because in one of the documents that led up to the creation of this 3 organization, there was a preamble which 4 talked about the value of sharing information 5 6 throughout the country so that organizations 7 could learn from one another. In the first couple of paragraphs of that document, it 8 referred to a couple of cases of a drug known 10 as Vincristine that's normally used for children with cancer, and if it's given in the 11 spine as opposed to the vein, it can be 12 lethal, and it referred to a fact as to how 13 one of these -- a case of this had happened, 14 but several years earlier there had been one 15 16 in Halifax, and referenced the point about if one had known about that, then maybe this 17 particular tragedy wouldn't have occurred. As 18 soon as I read it, a flashback I had was that 19 not only did one occur in Halifax, but one had 20 occurred in the Janeway back in the early 80s, 21 22 because I remember I had just joined the Janeway when that occurred. So here we are 23 looking at multiple events that had not been 24 shared and the inappropriate application of 25

test which I interpret as saying, you know, it's not black, it's not white, it's somewhere in the middle. I also recall, I think, Doctor Bell saying to me that reinforcing the perception of Mt. Sinai as a good place to use this. I had also asked Doctor Cook, while he was in the middle of dealing with this issue, to make representation to the oncologists-sorry, the Canadian Pathology Association because trying to figure out who, in the country, really needs to take ownership of this issue and I do know that he followed up with them.

So, there was a lot of discussion about what I felt was a responsibility that I had to bring this to the attention of others. And if there was somebody else who could potentially benefit from this, then this issue I had with the drug, Vincristine, would not be replicated. Anyways, that was sort of a thing that was happening along that time.

Back in house again, the issue of the sensitivity of the VENTANA technology was being followed up. And I remember they went through great efforts to get the technical

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Page 272 representative of the company down to assess the equipment and that happened. I can't remember the specific comments at the moment, but the bottom line was, for the most part, the equipment checked out.

Simultaneous with that or around the same time--first of all, you recall my comment about we weren't sure if this was as big as thought it was. But despite that, the decision was made to go forward and re-test several years because we just didn't know. And one of the decisions we made is to initiate a peer review process. And peer review is a mechanism that is often used in hospitals recognizing the unique positioning of physicians, in particular, and recognizing our interest in having staff contribute openly to an investigation. We asked somebody with expertise with creditability to come in and asses the system that we had in place. And there was a physician from British Columbia and a technologist from Mt. Sinai. I remember that that was happening during September/ October. Their reviews, because they were peer reviews, the circulation of them was

that drug was tragic. So by this time, I'm sort of getting a bit of head of steam built up and saying, look, I'm hearing about this issue from the literature, I'm talking to people about the value of this test, like, who owns this issue because by this time I was hearing there's no standards for the process, there's 40 steps from beginning to end, it can be affected by environmental conditions, humidity, how long it's kept in the OR, how it's transported, what the temperature should be. Anyhow, I called Phil and we talked about the situation we're facing here and we talked about the importance of follow up with the patients. I was looking also for him to say whose desk do I land this issue on, and he recommended I call Bob Bell. Bob Bell was recommended to me because he's a Chief Executive Officer, but he's also an oncologist, and Phil's thought was, George, he'd understand this issue from your perspective, but he'd also understand it from

a clinical perspective. Doctor Bell, Bob

with was his description of this as a grey

Bell--the one word that I remember coming away

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Page 273 limited, not sure if there's three or four 1 2 copies made. I didn't take one personally, but I did go to Doctor Williams' office to 3 read it. And issues that come to mind 4 concerns about fixation. And as I understand 5 6 fixation, that starts outside the lab, in the 7 OR or wherever the specimen was taken and goes on to be completed in the lab. I recall 8 issues about documentation and concerns that 10 there wasn't adequate documentation to be able 11 to confirm whether the controls that were in 12 place were done or not done. I remember a 13 conversation with Doctor Williams that said we need to get our head around this; trying to 14 put these reports in the context of what I was 15 16 hearing about both internationally and nationally; to get some appreciation for 17 whether the lack of standards nationally was a 18 part of the situation here; whether there was 19 some specific here. I remember coming away 20 thinking that I'm not able to definitively say 21 22 with all of the context there, what the definitive issue or attributing factor or 23 factors might be. 24 25 COFFEY, Q.C.:

creditability. But I also remember thinking at the time that these recommendations were being put forward for change, but in the recent couple of years that they would have had, without those recommendations in place, the positivity ratings were on the high side. So, trying to figure out how that impact, you know, was just one more element of this.

But I certainly have a recollection to say our focus is on the follow-up here. At some point--early October there was a media inquiry and that inquiry was in the nature of we're hearing something about Eastern Health having an issue with its mammography, which clearly wasn't the issue, but that resulted in an article in one of the local newspapers, The Independent, about this issue. Dr. Williams subsequently did a number of interviews about that, and it wasn't unanticipated, but it was certainly disappointing that we hadn't been able to get the results back by that point in time. The hope was that we were able to deal with this prior to any information coming out through the media. I think because of that there was

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Q. I'm sorry, the what?

2 MR. TILLEY:

A. Attributing factors.

4 COFFEY, Q.C.:

Q. Oh, okay.

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6 MR. TILLEY: 7 A. So what I had indicated or what I had talked 8 about at that point in time was our focus has 9 got to be on the recommendations. Now, the recommendations were became the predominant 10 11 focus of the lab leadership team. And I remember Doctor Williams being particularly 12 astute to the importance of getting them 13 followed up on, even to the point of, at a 14 later date, asking the individuals who were 15 involved to come back and re-assess those 16 recommendations to see if they had been acted 17 up. But I had looked at recommendations and 18 19 there obviously were quite a number. And when I reflect on them, they clearly would put us 20 into a go standard because they were talking 21 about having dedicated medical leads, 22 dedicated technologists. And certainly by 23 having or bringing that level of expertise to 24

Page 276 information provided on the website which people were able to use to get some appreciation for what this issue was all about, and information about if you are one of

those patients who had this test, then talking about the fact that if there's to be a change in treatment, that we will be back to you. So

this is in early October. As a consequence of 8 9 that coverage, I recall that there were obviously -- there were calls from individuals 10

inquiring as to what this is all about, does this involve me, and I think in mid October 12

> sometime the decision was made to call patients and advise them that this test was going to be retested. So that sort of started

the whole process of contacting the patients.

Now I know the numbers were changing. Initially the number was in the 400 range.

19 That was with regards to those that actually had been interpreted or read in St. John's, 20

and that number subsequently grew when other

health authorities provided their information 22 or specimens, and there may have been some 23

others in St. John's that increased it, but 24 25 I'm not sure of that. So a team was put in

any particular service would enhance its

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	Page 277		Page 279
1	place then. I think it was through the	1	was active discussion going on between the
2	Quality Initiatives Department, and the	2	labs, but these particular meetings actually
3	majority, if not all of the staff working in	3	occurred at the CEO and Vice President level.
4	that area, were had clinical backgrounds.	4	I recall discussions about repeating some of
5	So they started the process of calling	5	the history about what this test is for,
6	individuals who would be retested. Now in	6	talking about its limitations, talking about
7	terms of the results coming back, I recall	7	what was learned in St. John's, and what the
8	that a decision was made at some point in time	8	follow-up strategy was, and the CEO's, in
9	that if your result came back and it was	9	particular, were certainly well known to one
10	confirmed negative, that group would make the	10	another. Since the time that the four CEO's
11	call and advise you of that. If the result	11	were appointed that January, there had been
12	came back and showed a conversion to a	12	ongoing collaboration. So that was
13	positive level, then that was going to be	13	continuing. There also had been a provincial
14	referred to initially the most responsible	14	mechanism for the Vice Presidents of Medical
15	physician, but that subsequently evolved into	15	Services to come together from time to time as
16	a tumor panel, and that tumor panel had	16	well. So that group wasn't new to itself and
17	representation from pathology, oncology,	17	discussions were open. I'm drawing a blank
18	surgeons, and these are three physician	18	now in terms of 2006.
19	groups, and a representative from Quality, who	19 COFF	FEY, Q.C.:
20	was serving more as the coordinator of the	20 Q.	Okay, we're up to '06. Well, let's see, I
21	process. I recall that I don't know who	21	might help. All the results, I gather, or
22	initially came up with the idea, but I recall	22	most of the results were back by February of
23	it in terms of consistency, in terms of	23	'06, the retest results.
24	interpreting the results that were coming	24 MR.	TILLEY:
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25	back. In my mind, this was evolving on the	25 A.	So results were coming back.
25	back. In my mind, this was evolving on the Page 278	25 A.	So results were coming back. Page 280
25	·	1 COFF	Page 280 FEY, Q.C.:
	Page 278	1 COFF	Page 280
1	Page 278 definition of what would trigger a value of Tamoxifen or not, so anyway, the tumor panel took those results and evaluated them.	1 COFF	Page 280 FEY, Q.C.:
1 2	Page 278 definition of what would trigger a value of Tamoxifen or not, so anyway, the tumor panel took those results and evaluated them. When they had evaluated them, my recollection	1 COFF 2 Q. 3 4 MR.	Page 280 FEY, Q.C.: They were back I gather most of them were back, according to the documents. TILLEY:
1 2 3	Page 278 definition of what would trigger a value of Tamoxifen or not, so anyway, the tumor panel took those results and evaluated them.	1 COFF 2 Q. 3 4 MR.	Page 280 FEY, Q.C.: They were back I gather most of them were back, according to the documents.
1 2 3 4	Page 278 definition of what would trigger a value of Tamoxifen or not, so anyway, the tumor panel took those results and evaluated them. When they had evaluated them, my recollection is the information was then sent to the Cancer Program, Cancer Care Program, which was	1 COFF 2 Q. 3 4 MR. 5 A. 6 COFF	Page 280 FEY, Q.C.: They were back I gather most of them were back, according to the documents. TILLEY: Okay. FEY, Q.C.:
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about the need to ensure that the physicians

following up with the patients because of the

new information. There may have been an

who are receiving this information are

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been involved at the pathology of lab level

back in the summer or June when there was a

request from the lab in St. John's to get them

to submit some information. So I know there

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example where it had been identified that one conference in December. So, that press 1 1 2 had not. What I had referenced earlier about 2 conference--all throughout this period there was ongoing inquiries from the media with 3 the two external reviewers, they had come back 3 in to assess the status of the regards to what was happening, what's the 4 4 update? And by this time the information is 5 recommendations. So I'm recalling also that 5 there might have been a change in the being pulled together. I'm starting to tweak 6 6 leadership in the lab around that time. Dr. some other thoughts now. 7 7 8 Cook had completed his term, I can't remember 8 There were some internal presentations 9 what that term was; three years seems to ring even before we met with the minister. I think 9 10 a bell, and Dr. Nash Denic became involved. 10 Doctor Denic had undertaken a presentation at So I'm aware or recalling that there was a lot the Health Sciences Centre site for people who 11 11 12 of discussion going on at that level with 12 were interested, and I recall him and a couple 13 regards to the recommendations and the results of others doing a similar presentation 13 certainly for the executive team, which would of the work that had been coming back. And 14 14 that the people involved in the contact were have been me and the Vice Presidents and the 15 15 16 analysing their work. Sorry, I'm drawing a 16 Chief Operating Officers, and I seem to recall black here at the moment. others in the room, but I really can't pull 17 17 out of my head who they were. So they were 18 COFFEY, O.C.: 18 19 Q. We're into '06, I'll just--something that's 19 referring to this issue, what they've learned very publicly known. There was a press in the literature, what the recommendations 20 20 conference in late '06. 21 21 were for follow-up, what the status of those 22 MR. TILLEY: 22 were. One of the things I remember, and I A. Okay. 23 think it was repeated during that presentation 23 was a reference to the probalistic nature of 24 COFFEY, Q.C.: 24 this test, and I remember a slide going up Q. I'm not suggesting that was necessarily the 25 Page 284 Page 282 next thing, but that's certainly publicly which showed -- I assume what showed what one 1 1 2 know. 2 would -- what a pathologist would see when they've looked through the microscope, and how 3 MR. TILLEY: 3 one of the things that the pathologist had to A. Okay. Working from there, a little bit back, 4 5 meetings had gone on with Mr. Ottenheimer and 5 do was to identify what the rate of positivity Mr. Ottenheimer was unquestionably concerned was, which is the extent to which the cells 6 6 7 about the patients and wanting this followed 7 were taking up the stain. So I began to 8 up and certainly there was absolutely no appreciate the challenges that go with that 8 9 disagreement with that. But somewhere in and 9 type of position. Anyway, it wasn't something that I fully understood, but there were 10 around the time, there was a change at the 10 11 ministerial level. And I do recall contact 11 presentations about that, and after having 12 with the new minister, Mr. Orsborne, Orsborne? 12 that discussion in-house, excuse me, I also 13 COFFEY, Q.C.: 13 remember discussions about whether the VENTANA 14 Q. Osborne. 14 System that had been shut down in the summer 15 MR. TILLEY: 15 of 2005 was, in fact, still not being used for A. Osborne, sorry. And we had a meeting with him that purpose. There was discussion about "are 16 16 17 shortly or in the latter part of the fall, 17 we ready", and I think the general consensus 18 might have been in November some time. And was, yeah, there's no reason we shouldn't. I 18 19 I'm thinking that whatever information that 19 remember saying to Dr. Howell that when you 20 was had at the time was shared. And I 20 are at a point of feeling that we're ready to 21 remember that meeting now because it was in a 21 go, then I've got to rely upon you and your 22 room adjacent to the House of Assembly and I'd 22 team to make that decision. So that was all 23 never been in there before. So, the House was 23 precursor to the eventual technical briefing 24 24 in session and the minister came out of the that was given in December. house. And then the issue about the press 25 COFFEY, Q.C.: 25

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