



Eastern Health

NEWS RELEASE

March 26, 2008, St. John's, NL

The following statement was read today at the Commission of Inquiry by Joan Dawe, Chair of the Board of Trustees for Eastern Health:

“This Inquiry is about breast cancer patients, some of whom did not get the treatment that they might have if they had received a different original test result.

It was important for this Inquiry to start by hearing stories and concerns of patients and their families and that we keep them in mind as we proceed.

As Chair of the Board of Trustees of Eastern Health, I am deeply concerned when I hear that even one person has been affected as a result of the ER/PR testing. I am very sorry for the pain and anxiety that patients and their families have endured. For that, Eastern Health apologizes.

During the course of this Inquiry, many representatives of Eastern Health will give evidence about their individual involvement in testing, patient care, retesting and communication of results. We believe that those persons carried out their responsibilities to the best of their abilities. Their motivation was, first and foremost, to provide the best patient care possible. That remains Eastern Health's objective today.

I can assure you that Eastern Health is totally committed to this Inquiry and is fully participating in the process. We await the outcome of the Commission hoping that it will provide resolution for patients and their families and assist us to continue to make improvements to our services. Furthermore, we understand that major Canadian medical organizations and pathologists are also calling for the development and implementation of national standards and regulations for immunohistochemistry testing. So we are confident that learnings from this Inquiry will be used, not only to help Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, but to benefit all Canadians.”

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