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To: [Deborah Thomas-Pennell](#);
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Subject: Response to MUSE
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Attachments: [ER.doc](#)

My response to the MUSE. I know you will edit.....so feel free!! By the way, I am not proposing leaving the last sentence dangling there as an invitation...just in case they decide to print this as is! I just noticed this as I reread. Thought I would mention it just so neither of you has palpitations when you read it! Pat

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ER/PR Testing Response to the MUSE

The ER/PR Test result issue is still currently under investigation by Eastern Health. Retesting of previous results is part of this investigation. We have had experts from other parts of Canada visit our laboratory as a part of this process. Once the investigation is complete, we will be in a position to determine the cause/s.

Mount Sinai Laboratory is a nationally accredited laboratory and considered by us to be the leading laboratory in Canada. All breast tissue samples being sent to Mount Sinai are being also retested in our own laboratory and our results are being compared with the Mount Sinai results. We are using this comparison as a part of our investigation of this issue.

The Mount Sinai Laboratory uses a recognized method known as an immunohistochemistry test for the testing of ER/PR receptors. This is a semi-automated system of testing that involves a 40 step procedure from the time the tissue is removed from the patient and received by the pathology for interpretation in the laboratory. The laboratory service in St. John's used the same immunohistochemistry method from 1997 to 2004. In 2004, the laboratory in St. John's, as well as many other laboratories in Canada, changed to a more automated immunohistochemistry method of testing. This new technology eliminated some of the manual steps in the procedure.

As soon as we discovered that there were inconsistent results, we took action. We stopped testing in the St. John's laboratories; and commenced our investigation. We will resume testing only when our investigation is complete and we have a resolution to this issue.

Any person has the right to consider legal action at any time.