

**Joyce Penney**

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**From:** Joyce Penney  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 01, 2007 3:32 PM  
**To:** Oscar Howell; Joyce Penney; Louise Jones; Denise Dunn  
**Subject:** ER/PR data base and IHC testing  
**Importance:** High

**Forwarded on behalf of Louise Jones**

Oscar

I meet with Commission lawyers, Robert Thompson Ralph Pitcher this afternoon with respect to the ER/PR data base and the numbers.

One of the questions that Bernie Coffey raised for Robert Thompson , potentially that will not be the focus of COI is IHC testing for other than breast specimens. Bernie Coffey expects that it will be a focus for the Task Force on Adverse Health Events and gave Robert Thompson the "heads-up" that he should consider the answer to that question.

So...that having been said What other types of specimens have been done that are questionable in the IHC Lab that we should be aware of ??

The question to be asked is WHY haven't we not retested if we believe that we had problems in the lab?

I have heard some discussion around that in the past and maybe we need have a discussion as I expect Robert Thompson will be asking questions in the future now that he is full time on the Task Force on Adverse Health Events.

Louise



**Eastern  
Health**

**Joyce**

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4/10/2008

**Joyce Penney**

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**From:** Louise Jones  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 07, 2007 9:22 AM  
**To:** Joyce Penney  
**Subject:** FW: Database Follow-up

Lets put Robert on our list to call fro today as well to follow-up on this note..

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

**From:** Louise Jones  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 06, 2007 7:45 PM  
**To:** 'Robert Thompson'  
**Subject:** RE: Database Follow-up

Robert,

I will give you a call on this to follow-up on this issue.

Do you have any sense when your data base will be completed.. On Thursday, you had indicated that you thought that this would happen in the next 10 days..

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

**From:** Robert Thompson [mailto:RThompson@gov.nl.ca]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 05, 2007 4:34 PM  
**To:** Louise Jones  
**Subject:** Database Follow-up

Louise:

There is one issue on which I would like to follow-up after last week's activities.

The variances in the data reported to the public last week have placed the focus on database management skills within the Eastern Health group which was tracking the data from the outset. Without questioning anyone's commitment to patient care, there was inadequate record-keeping on this project which resulted in variances.

The NLCHI project for the most part is about rebuilding a picture of what happened. A retrospective picture. If the whole story was in the past, then the NLCHI process would be enough.

However, now that some new cases are being retested and some people are being contacted for the first time, events are happening again on which good quality data needs to be collected. Therefore, if the same record-keeping approach is being used (and I am not sure if it is), it may contain the same problems as the first time around. For example, I understand that Heather's spreadsheet, when it was periodically updated, was overwritten each time, with the result that no copy of the spreadsheet as it existed previously was still available. Another example is the absence of a linkage between the spreadsheet data and the provincial mortality database to ensure that up-to-date mortality information was included.

As I am not sure what improvements have been made to the data collection approach I cannot make specific recommendations. However, given that new, real-time events and data collection are

occurring again, I recommend that someone with data management and research skills (other than NLCHI) be added to the team to ensure the completeness, consistency and reliability of the new data.

Robert

Robert Thompson  
Secretary to Cabinet (Health Issues) and Chair, Task Force on Adverse Health Events. Executive  
Council Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
709-729-3125

**Joyce Penney**

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**From:** Joyce Penney  
**Sent:** Monday, November 12, 2007 8:50 AM  
**To:** Louise Jones; 'Robert Thompson'  
**Cc:** Joyce Penney  
**Subject:** RE: Getting Together Louise Jones re Task Force on Adverse Health Events

Good Morning Mr Thompson

Lets aim for 4:15 pm on Wednesday 14 November 2007.  
Did you want to meet in Louise's office or yours.

Joyce

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

**From:** Louise Jones  
**Sent:** Friday, November 09, 2007 5:06 PM  
**To:** 'Robert Thompson'  
**Cc:** Joyce Penney  
**Subject:** RE: Getting Together

Just looking at the calendar .. it does not look very hopeful but I will have Joyce see what see can do around Wed.. IT may have to be late in the day as I am presenting a national teleconference in the early afternoon. Lets see what Joyce can craft on Monday..

Have a great weekend..

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

**From:** Robert Thompson [mailto:RThompson@gov.ni.ca]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 09, 2007 4:04 PM  
**To:** Louise Jones  
**Subject:** Getting Together

Louise:

Now that I have almost a week at this work (preparing for the Commission) on a sustained basis, I have revamped our work plan and would like to sit down with you to review it. I can also see more clearly that confusion exists around the mandate of this office and how we relate to the Department and to the RHAs.

Therefore, I would like to meet with you early next week if possible to connect these dots and lay the basis for a smooth process as we head towards the Commission.

The separate process of the Task Force on Adverse Health Events also needs to be communicated clearly, but that will take another couple of weeks.

I am available on Tuesday (9-12:30; 12 - 1:30) or anytime on Wednesday.  
I look forward to hearing from you.

Robert

Robert Thompson  
Secretary to Cabinet (Health Issues) and Chair, Task Force on Adverse Health Events Executive  
Council Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
709-729-3125

**Joyce Penney**

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**From:** Louise Jones  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 15, 2007 2:10 PM  
**To:** 'Thompson, Robert'  
**Cc:** Pat Pilgrim; Joyce Penney  
**Subject:** RE: Yesterday's Meeting

Yes it helped put things in perspective. We will work to get you as much documentation as we can. it will come in bits and pieces.. so please bear with us as we move though the process.

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**From:** Thompson, Robert [mailto:rthompson@gov.nl.ca]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 15, 2007 9:46 AM  
**To:** Louise Jones  
**Subject:** Yesterday's Meeting

Louise:

Thanks for your time yesterday. I found it very useful to hear about your approach to the Commission and the class action, and also about the stresses and strains on your management and staff. I'll stay in touch on a regular basis on how our work is progressing.

Regarding the information items I left with you, this is just to reiterate that we would be pleased to get the material in pieces. So if some items are easy to obtain first, great. Others may require more time and need to be juggled with the other requirements of the commission or the database. Some items may not exist - just let us know.

If you need any clarification on the list, your people can talk to Debbie Gregory.

One item I omitted from the list by mistake - we would like to get the Mount Sinai technical procedures for conducting ER/PR (e.g., the bench procedures) - which we understand exists in your lab.

Thanks

Robert



# Eastern Health

16 November 2007

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Mr. Robert Thompson  
Chair, Task Force on Adverse Health Events  
Secretary to Cabinet – Health Issues  
Department of Health and Community Services  
P.O. Box 8700  
St. John's, NL  
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Dear Mr. Thompson:

Our meeting earlier this week was indeed beneficial. With respect to Eastern Health's information management and decision support requirements, you may be aware that the Board Chair has been attempting and is still attempting to get a meeting with the Minister in relation to the Premier's comments regarding providing resources to Eastern Health to ensure that we are able to address our Information Management and Decision Support requirements.

Given that the meeting time has not yet been confirmed, I thought that I would send along the Draft Briefing Note, and power point presentation that had been prepared in anticipation of the meeting this week. I have also send a copy of the same documents to the Deputy Minister, Don Keats.

I understand that Joan Dawe, Board Chair will continue to follow-up with the Minister to identify a time to deliver these recommendations and to have a full discussion about what Eastern Health needs to do to move forward. As you can appreciate, Eastern Health has requested \$16.5M in the 2008 – 2009 budget with this Briefing Note prioritizing \$3M. Eastern Health will have to move forward with a portion of these costs immediately but does not have the financial capacity to take on an additional \$3M given our current financial position.

Sincerely,

Louise Jones  
Interim President and Chief Executive Officer

Cc Joan Dawe, Board Chair  
Eastern Health

/jp

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**From:** Thompson, Robert [mailto:rthompson@gov.nl.ca]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 19, 2007 10:38 AM  
**To:** Louise Jones  
**Subject:** Hi

Louise.

I'm in toronto today for meetings unrelated to health, but I have set up a meeting with Greg Brown of QMPLS, following up on my introduction to him by Rob Ritter a couple of months ago. I am interested in their accreditation mandate and the contract. For province wide services which they have with the Ministry. I recall you mentioning the other day that Oscar had started to talk with this group as well about possible lab accreditation.

I thought I should inform you about my mtg so there would be no confusion if someone tells you that I am mtg with them.

By the way. It would be useful to know how far your discussions with them have progressed. Is it still a concept or have you contracted with them?

FYI, Bern Coffey has talked to Greg about whether he could be a potential expert witness. Bern has not followed through since his original call.

Robert

Sent Via BlackBerry

**Joyce Penney**

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**From:** Louise Jones  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 21, 2007 5:20 PM  
**To:** Joyce Penney  
**Subject:** FW: QMPLS of IHC - Robert Thompson File

Print for me and put in your file as well..

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**From:** Thompson, Robert [mailto:rthompson@gov.nl.ca]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 20, 2007 6:12 PM  
**To:** Louise Jones  
**Subject:** Re: QMPLS of IHC

Thanks.

I had a good chat with Brown but he did not mention this specifically. We talked about the opportunity for QMPLS to offer some support for a QA process that would assist all sites, perhaps centred out of Eastern. We should have a chat about this.

I also briefed him about what I was doing and asked if his organization could help answer some questions that we are interested in - such as whether DAKO was considered best practice throughout 97-05, and what kinds of issues did other sites have with DAKO, and eR/PR in general, during this time period. He said he would get back to me with an answer on what it would take to do this work.

Robert

Sent Via BlackBerry

----- Original Message -----  
**From:** Louise Jones <Louise.Jones@easternhealth.ca>  
**To:** Thompson, Robert  
**Sent:** Tue Nov 20 14:07:18 2007  
**Subject:** FW: QMPLS of IHC

Not sure if Oscar sent you this FYI

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**From:** Pat Pilgrim  
**Sent:** Monday, November 19, 2007 5:25 PM  
**To:** Louise Jones  
**Subject:** FW: QMPLS of IHC

So, we have the confirmation from the Ontario group. Looks like we can get this done before Christmas. P

Patricia Pilgrim

Chief Operating Officer

Cancer Care, Quality and Risk Management

Eastern Health

c/o Room 1345, Level I, Health Sciences Centre

4/10/2008