

Denise Dunn

From: Wayne Miller
Sent: Thursday, August 03, 2006 4:50 PM
To: Susan Bonnell; Executive Team Eastern Health May 2005; Heather Predham
Subject: Re: Seriously flawed story on CBC

I feel that the most appropriate way of addressing the issue is to realse a prepared statement that states the facts in the same manner that we would respond to a statement of claim. Have the lawyers work with Dr. Williams to prepare a statement. Wayne Wayne Miller Senior Director Corporate Strategy and Research Eastern Health
709 777 1358

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

From: Susan Bonnell <Susan.Bonnell@hccsj.nl.ca>
To: Executive Team Eastern Health May 2005 <ExecutiveTeamEasternHealthMay2005@hccsj.nl.ca>; Heather Predham <Heather.Predham@hccsj.nl.ca>
Sent: Thu Aug 03 16:21:51 2006
Subject: Seriously flawed story on CBC

This story is appearing on the CBC website today. I'm very concerned by the implication that 10 to 20% of these women DID NOT HAVE breast cancer.

Faulty diagnoses for cancer patients, lawsuit alleges

Last Updated: Thursday, August 3, 2006 | 10:55 AM NT

CBC News <<http://www.cbc.ca/news/credit.html>>

Some Newfoundland women were treated for breast cancer in the past 10 years even though they never actually had the disease, a class-action lawsuit alleges.

False-positive results in tests done by the Eastern Regional Integrated Health Authority led to needless surgeries and chemotherapy treatments for the patients, as well as inflicting unnecessary mental distress on them, it charges.

The suit was filed last month by plaintiff Verna Doucette on behalf women who feel they suffered as a result of testing problems in the pathology department.

According to Doucette's statement of claim, which was filed in the Supreme Court of Newfoundland, Eastern Health noticed in 2005 that some patients diagnosed with breast cancer since 1997 were not responding as expected to treatment.

The statement says Eastern Health subsequently sent approximately 1,000 tissue samples collected from cancer patients to Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital for retesting.

Doucette alleges in the claim that the Mount Sinai retesting showed an error rate of at least 10 to 20 per cent.

The statement of claim does not specify how much money the group is seeking in damages.

Myrtle Lewis of Conception Bay South had a double mastectomy, only to find out seven years later that the surgery was unnecessary. Lewis said she is not suing for the money, but to help ensure such incidents do not happen to anyone else in the future.

"There's nothing that'll ever replace what I've lost," said Lewis.

"But if it's going to help somebody else, some other woman out there, I say to them, 'Make sure, make sure you get the second opinion.' "

St. John's lawyer Ches Crosbie, who represents the plaintiffs, said Eastern Health had not responded to the allegations as of Thursday.

However, he added that the health authority's lawyer is currently on vacation.

Susan Bonnell

Director, Corporate Communications

709-777-1426 (1338)