

**Speaking Notes for Minister Wiseman
Forum on Adverse Health Event Management
Monday, May 26**

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

- Good morning. I would like to thank you all for attending today's important forum on managing adverse health events. It certainly is an impressive array of speakers lined up and I would also like to thank each of our presenters, many of whom have travelled from across the country to be here today.
- Over the past year recent adverse health events in our province have dominated the media and the public's attention, most notably the issues surrounding hormone receptor testing.
- The magnitude of women and families affected by this was so large, and the impact so profound, that our government recognized that we must put measures in place to ensure this type of occurrence never happens again.
- This was the primary reason we established the Commission of Inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing. It is also why we invested \$2.3 million to enhance data management capabilities and quality assurance measures within our regional health authorities to ensure quality testing in our provincial laboratories.
- Our government is committed to doing what is necessary to ensure a quality health care system. Just last week, for example, we announced one of the most comprehensive packages in the country for pathologists, recognizing that a strong workforce of oncologists and pathologists is critical to ensuring a state-of-the-art cancer care program in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- This significant and unique measure will help to address the immediate need to enhance our recruitment and retention efforts in order to attract and keep pathologists in our province. And it is evidence of our commitment to ensuring the best care for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Of course, one of the other key measures we took is what brings us here to today. We established the Task Force on Adverse Health to examine how the health care system identifies, evaluates, responds to and communicates adverse events.

- Today's forum is a vital piece of the work of the task force because it brings together experts in adverse health management as well as front-line professionals, managers, administrators and stakeholders in our health care system to help the task force in developing its recommendations.
- Additionally, we are inviting submissions from the public to the Task Force to gain as comprehensive a perspective as possible.
- Through the work of the task force and the commission of inquiry, we hope to strengthen our health care system so it is prepared to respond in the unfortunate event of an adverse health event in the future.
- The reforms that will result from these initiatives will support one primary goal- to ensure that the health and well-being of patients is the central consideration at all times.
- We don't know the time or place that an unexpected adverse health event will arise. And, while we all hope that one never does arise again and are doing all we can to prevent such an occurrence, we must do our best by the people of this province now by ensuring we are prepared to respond to any eventuality.
- We also hope that in taking these significant steps to build our responsiveness that we will help to restore a greater confidence in our health care system.
- The reality is that there are thousands of excellent professionals providing quality care to our residents every single day in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Our government sees this and we want the people of Newfoundland and Labrador to see that as well.
- Today is another example of the dedication shown within our health and community services system. Each of you, by your presence here today is demonstrating your commitment to quality health care and to the people of our province.
- I thank you sincerely for attending today's event and I hope that you have an informative and insightful forum.
- Thank you.