



# **Standing Committee on Health**

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*ANNUAL REPORT*

*2022*

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Halifax

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Honourable Keith Bain  
Speaker  
House of Assembly  
Province House  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On behalf of the Standing Committee on Health, I am pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Committee for the period from September 2021 to August 2022 of the Sixty-Fourth General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Boudreau'.

Trevor Boudreau, MLA, Richmond  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Health

Halifax, Nova Scotia  
2022

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## INTRODUCTION

The Standing Committee on Health, an all-party committee of the House of Assembly, was struck in the First Session of the Sixty-Fourth General Assembly. Pursuant to Rule 60(2)(f) of the *Province of Nova Scotia Rules and Forms of Procedure of the House of Assembly*:

The Health Committee is established for the purpose of considering matters relative to access to and delivery of health care services.

## MEMBERSHIP

There shall be no more than nine members of the Legislative Assembly appointed to this committee. On August 31, 2022, membership of the Health Committee was as follows:

Trevor Boudreau, MLA – Chair  
Richmond

Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA  
Halifax Atlantic

Kent Smith, MLA – Vice-Chair  
Eastern Shore

Rafah DiCostanzo, MLA  
Clayton Park West

Chris Palmer, MLA  
Kings West

Gary Burrill, MLA  
Halifax Chebucto

John White, MLA  
Glace Bay-Dominion

Susan Leblanc, MLA  
Dartmouth North

Danielle Barkhouse, MLA  
Chester-St. Margaret's

## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Hon. Patricia Arab, MLA replaced Hon. Zach Churchill, MLA in March 2022.

Gary Burrill, MLA replaced Kendra Coombes, MLA in June 2022.

Hon. Brendan Maguire replaced Hon. Patricia Arab, MLA in August 2022.

## PROCEDURES AND OPERATIONS

The Health Committee normally meets on the second Tuesday of every month in the Legislative Chamber at Province House.

Because of physical distancing protocols observed during the COVID-19 pandemic, the meetings of January 11 and February 8, 2022 were held by video conference.

## NOTICES, TRANSCRIPTS AND REPORTS

### NOTICES

Notices of committee meetings are sent to all members of the committee, caucus office staff, legislative staff and Communications Nova Scotia. The notices are also posted in Province House and are on the Nova Scotia Legislature website at the following address:

<https://nslegislature.ca/get-involved/calendar>

### TRANSCRIPTS

Transcripts of the Health Committee meetings are available from the Legislative Library in Province House, the Legislative Committees Office, or on the Health Committee web page at the following address:

<https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/committees/standing/health/archive/health>

### REPORTS

All reports of the Standing Committee on Health are compiled by the Legislative Committees Office and forwarded to committee members for consideration. Upon completion of the review and approval of the report, the Chair tables the report with the Speaker of the House of Assembly or with the Clerk of the House of Assembly.

Distribution of the report is as follows:

To the Speaker and the Clerk of the House of Assembly, committee members, all witnesses who appeared before the committee, the Nova Scotia Legislative Library, caucus offices and the media. This report is available to the general public upon request from the Legislative Committees Office, and is available on the Health Committee web page at the following address: <https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/committees/standing/health/reports>

## RESEARCH MATERIAL

Research material for the Health Committee is compiled by the Legislative Library in consultation with the committee clerk and distributed to members by the committee clerk.

Reference material is provided to members and caucus staff prior to the meeting date. A copy of this material is also made available to the witnesses appearing before the committee, to the Legislative Library in Province House and to Hansard Reporting Services.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The committee wishes to extend its gratitude to all witnesses for their time and co-operation. Special appreciation is extended to the Legislative Committees Office; Hansard Reporting Services; Legislative Television and Broadcast Services; and the Nova Scotia Legislative Library.



# **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**WITNESSES**

None

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**Organizational:**

The committee discussed regular meeting dates and times. A motion was introduced:

- I move that the committee keep its current practice of meeting monthly, generally on the second Tuesday of each month between 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm.
  - Moved by Chris Palmer, MLA
- I'll propose an amendment to the current motion that we meet biweekly.
  - Moved by Hon. Zach Churchill, MLA
  - Amendment defeated
  - Original motion carried

Meeting during summer months, House sittings: Committee agreed by consensus that it would continue to meet throughout the summer, and while the House is sitting. To accommodate House hours, however, it would meet from 9:00 to 11:00 am on those days the House is sitting.

Location: The committee agreed by consensus to continue to meet in the Legislative Chamber. Although meetings can now be broadcast from the Committee Room at One Government Place, the Chamber has more seating for witnesses.

Procedure for questioning witnesses: Members agreed by consensus to follow previous Health Committees' pattern of 20 minutes per caucus, followed by a second round of 10 minutes each as time allows.

Members discussed agenda-setting procedures. A motion was introduced:

- I'd like to move the motion that the government caucus will get three regular or emergency topics per six-meeting rotation. The Official Opposition will get two regular or emergency topics per six-meeting rotation and the third party will get one regular or emergency topic per six-meeting rotation. The standing committee will rotate through the topics using the following order: government, Official Opposition, government, third party, government, Official Opposition. Once the list of six topics is exhausted, the Chair of this committee will hold another agenda-setting meeting that will follow the above rotation.
  - Moved by Danielle Barkhouse, MLA

An amendment was proposed:

- I move to make an amendment to the motion and that is to allow the third party to be able to bring two topics to the committee.
  - Moved by Kendra Coombes, MLA
  - Amendment defeated
  - Original motion carried

In further discussion, the committee gave the clerk some flexibility in scheduling order, depending on witness availability.

Outside requests: The committee agreed by consensus that outside requests from organizations to appear would be dealt with on an ad hoc basis, and would not affect any caucus's regular number of topics.

Committee documents: In the interests of simplicity and the environment, members agreed by consensus to receive committee documents by email only – with the exception of the agenda, which would be printed and distributed at meetings.

### **Correspondence:**

Email from Cheryl Campana (Sept. 28, 2021) re: nursing employment. Committee agreed by consensus to a suggestion by Kent Smith, MLA that the clerk write to Ms. Campana to thank her for her email and let her know it will be forwarded to Dr. Kevin Orrell, CEO of the Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment.

Letter from Heart and Stroke, IWK, Braveheart Support Society, Maritime Heart Centre (Nov. 12, 2021) Request to appear before the committee to discuss improving cardiac arrest outcomes in Nova Scotia. A motion was introduced:

- I move that the committee accept the request of the Heart & Stroke Foundation, IWK, Braveheart Support Society, and Maritime Heart Center to appear before the committee to discuss improving cardiac arrest outcomes in Nova Scotia. This would be a shared seventh topic in addition to the six that were decided on today.
  - Moved by Danielle Barkhouse, MLA
  - Motion carried

In the discussion that followed, the committee agreed the clerk would schedule this appearance as an additional meeting within the next six months, but not while the House is sitting.

### **Agenda-Setting:**

An agenda-setting was held. Members agreed to motions in support of the following:

#### **Progressive Conservative**

Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment

- Dept. of Health and Wellness: Jeannine Lagassé, Deputy Minister

- Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment: Dr. Kevin Orrell, CEO

#### Vaccine Booster Shots

- Dept. of Health and Wellness: Jeannine Lagassé, Deputy Minister; Dr. Robert Strang, Chief Medical Officer of Health

#### Auditor General's 2017 Recommendations re: Mental Health Services in the Province

- Dept. of Health and Wellness: Jeannine Lagassé, Deputy Minister

#### Liberal

##### Impacts of Staffing Shortages in Long Term Care

- Dept. of Seniors and Long Term Care: Paul LaFleche, Deputy Minister; Tracey Barbrick, Associate Deputy Minister; Vicki Elliott-Lopez, Senior Executive Director
- Nova Scotia Nurses' Union: Janet Hazelton, President
- CUPE Nova Scotia: Nan McFadgen, President

##### Government Initiatives of Ambulance Availability and Offload Delays, and DHW response

- Dept. of Health and Wellness: Craig Beaton, Associate Deputy Minister & staff
- IUOE Local 727 (Nova Scotia Paramedics Union): Mike Nickerson, Business Manager, or designate

#### New Democratic Party

##### Access to Birth Control and Sexual Health Services

- Nova Scotia Health: Karen Oldfield, President and CEO
- Dept. of Health and Wellness: Jeannine Lagassé, Deputy Minister
- Wellness Within: Martha Paynter
- IWK Emergency Dept: Alyson Holland, Director of Social Pediatrics
- Sexual Health Nova Scotia: Leigh Heide, Executive Director

#### **Other Business:**

After the agenda-setting motions were passed, a new motion was introduced in reference to the third PC topic, Auditor General's 2017 Recommendations re: Mental Health Services in the Province:

- I would like to revisit my earlier suggestion that we ask the Auditor General to come to the committee either in advance of the meeting that morning or at another time that works for everyone to provide us with an in camera briefing on that report.
  - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
  - Motion defeated

**DOCUMENTATION**

No further information was requested at this meeting.

**TRANSCRIPT**

A link to a transcript of this meeting can be found at:

<https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/committees/standing/health/archive/health>

**NOTE**

This meeting was held by video conference, in keeping with physical distancing protocols advised by the Office of Public Health.

**WITNESSES**

Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care

- Paul LaFleche, Deputy Minister
- Kim Silver, Acting Senior Executive Director, Continuing Care
- Katelyn Randell, Director, Long-Term Care

Nova Scotia Nurses' Union

- Janet Hazelton, President

Canadian Union of Public Employees

- Nan McFadgen, President, Nova Scotia Branch
- Govind Rao, Atlantic Region Research Representative

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**Correspondence:**

Dec. 9, 2021 email from Dr. Kevin Orrell, CEO of the Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment, asking (jointly with Jeannine Lagassé, Deputy Minister of Health and Wellness) whether Dr. Orrell and his staff could appear at the meeting on the Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment, without requiring DM Lagassé's presence. The Chair noted the committee had not given unanimous consent to this request in an email poll conducted Dec. 10-13, 2021. A motion was introduced:

- When that topic is brought forward, I move that the witness be changed at the request of Dr. Orrell to include Dr. Orrell and Vimy Glass, Executive Director for the Office of Healthcare Professional Recruitment, and to remove the Department of Health and Wellness and Deputy Minister Lagassé.
  - Moved by Chris Palmer, MLA
  - Motion carried

**Other Business:**

The committee discussed the venue for the February 8 meeting. The Chair noted that under current public health advice, the committee could not meet in the Legislative Chamber at

present with a full complement of staff. He also mentioned LTV's current reservations about hybrid meetings. A motion was introduced:

- I move that unless Public Health restrictions allow for full in-person participation for MLAs and legislative staff, the February meeting be held in a virtual format.
  - Moved by John White, MLA
  - Motion carried

The Chair announced the Department of Health and Wellness had asked in correspondence with the clerk whether the Associate Deputy Minister could appear at the meeting on the Auditor General's 2017 Recommendations on Mental Health Services in the Province, instead of the Deputy Minister. The department had cited demands the COVID-19 pandemic was making on all staff. A motion was introduced:

- I move that for the suggested topic entitled Auditor General's 2017 recommendations regarding mental health services in the province, that at the request of the department, the Associate Deputy Minister and staff take the place of Deputy Minister Lagassé, and that Deputy Minister Lagassé be removed from the witness list
  - Moved by John MacDonald, MLA

An amendment was proposed:

- I'll move to amend to also invite the Auditor General.
  - Moved by Hon. Zach Churchill, MLA

Some discussion followed.

- Amendment defeated
- Original motion carried

There was some discussion about requesting statistics from the Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care. Two motions were introduced:

- [B]e it resolved that the Health Committee request the Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care to resume the practice of publicly reporting wait times for placement in long-term care by the next Health Committee meeting in February in line with the minister's public commitment to do so.
  - Moved by Hon. Zach Churchill, MLA
  - Motion carried
- I move that the Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care provide details on staffing calculations that would achieve the 4.1 care hours per resident per day with 2,500 new single long-term care beds, as per the Minister's mandate letter.
  - Moved by Rafah DiCostanzo, MLA
  - Meeting time elapsed before committee could vote

## DOCUMENTATION

No further information was requested from the witnesses.

As a result of a motion passed (see above), a letter was sent from the Committee to the Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care, requesting that it “resume the practice of publicly reporting wait times for placement in long-term care by the next Health Committee meeting in February in line with the minister’s public commitment to do so.” The Minister’s reply was received and acknowledged at the February 8 meeting.

#### **TRANSCRIPT**

A link to a transcript of this meeting can be found at:

<https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/committees/standing/health/archive/health>



**AUDITOR GENERAL'S 2017 RECOMMENDATIONS  
RE: MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN THE PROVINCE**

**February 8, 2022**

**NOTE**

This meeting was held by video conference, in keeping with physical distancing protocols advised by the Office of Public Health.

**WITNESSES**

Department of Health and Wellness

- Ms. Kathleen Trott, Associate Deputy Minister
- Dr. Sam Hickcox, Chief, Office of Addictions and Mental Health
- Ms. Francine Vezina, Executive Director, Office of Addictions and Mental Health

Nova Scotia Health

- Ms. Sam Hodder, Senior Director, Mental Health and Addictions
- Dr. Andrew Harris, Senior Medical Director, Mental Health and Addictions

IWK Health Centre

- Dr. Alexa Bagnell, Chief, Psychiatry
- Ms. Maureen Brennan, Director, Mental Health and Addictions Program

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**Correspondence:**

February 2, 2022 email from Canadian Cancer Society. Copy of submission made to the Finance and Treasury Board with respect to the Nova Scotia Budget 2022-23 Consultation. Accepted.

February 2, 2022 letter from Minister of Seniors and Long-Term Care, re: reporting wait times for long-term care. Response to committee's letter of Jan. 13, arising from a motion passed at the Jan. 11 meeting. Accepted.

**Other Business:**

Venue for March 8 meeting: Members discussed whether to hold the March 8 meeting in person, pending advice of the Office of Public Health. A motion was introduced:

- "I move to have the members polled closer to the meeting date about what we prefer. As you know, this is an ever-changing situation, and things could be different a month from now."
  - Moved by Kendra Coombes, MLA

An amendment was proposed:

- “[T]hat we will go virtual and then we’ll poll shortly before the meeting, hopefully getting unanimous consent to go in person. Just so we’re clear, it is our intention that we want to be back in person as soon as it is safe to do so.”
  - Moved by Kent Smith, MLA
  - Amendment accepted
  - Amended motion carried

Witness change for March 8 meeting: Members agreed by consensus that Ms. Suzanne Ley appear at the March 8 meeting, instead of Ms. Vimy Glass, because of a staffing change at the Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment.

Motion held over from January 11 meeting:

- I move that the Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care provide details on staffing calculations that would achieve the 4.1 care hours per resident per day with 2,500 new single long-term care beds, as per the Minister’s mandate letter.
  - Moved by Rafah DiCostanzo, MLA
  - Motion carried.

The Chair noted the clerk would write a letter on behalf of the committee to the Department, making this request.

## **DOCUMENTATION**

No further information was requested from witnesses.

As a result of a motion passed (see above), the following information was requested and received from the Department of Seniors and Long-term Care:

- Details on staffing calculations that would achieve the 4.1 care hours per resident per day with 2,500 new single long-term care beds, as per the Minister’s mandate letter.

## **TRANSCRIPT**

A link to a transcript of this meeting can be found at:

<https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/committees/standing/health/archive/health>

**WITNESSES**

**Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment**

- Dr. Kevin Orrell, Deputy Minister and CEO
- Ms. Suzanne Ley, Executive Director

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**Correspondence:**

Feb. 24, 2022 letter from Jeannine Lagassé, Deputy Minister of Health and Wellness re: invitation to appear at April 12 meeting

Feb. 24, 2022 letter from Karen Oldfield, President and CEO of the Nova Scotia Health Authority re: invitation to appear at April 12 meeting

March 7, 2022 email from Dr. Alyson Holland, IWK Emergency Dept. re: invitation to appear at April 12 meeting

The committee dealt with all three pieces of correspondence together, since they were all from witnesses asking to be excused from the April 12 meeting, and proposing other people in their place. Members agreed by consensus to Dr. Holland's request, but affirmed they still expect DM Lagasse and Ms. Oldfield to attend the April 12 meeting. They may, however, bring the staff members they had proposed as substitutes.

**Other Business:**

A motion was introduced:

- I move that this committee formally request the Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment provide a quarterly report to the committee outlining recruitment and retention goals, progress against goals, vacancies, and the return on investment of incentives as it pertains to physicians (family doctors and specialists), nurses (nurse practitioners, registered nurses, and licensed practical nurses), continuing care assistants, paramedics, and medical laboratory technicians.
  - Moved by Rafah DiCostanzo, MLA
  - Motion defeated in a recorded vote. (Yeas: Clark, DiCostanzo, Leblanc, Lachance. Nays: Smith, Palmer, White, Barkhouse, Boudreau)

## **DOCUMENTATION**

The following information was requested and has been received from the Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment:

- In October, it was reported that the Nova Scotia Health Authority had 172 physician vacancies that they were recruiting for, along with 1,086 registered nursing postings, 235 licensed practical nursing vacancies, and 12 unfilled nurse practitioner jobs, and an estimated 448 continuing care assistant jobs across the province. This does not include other numbers from the IWK, efforts for recruiting six physicians and 62 nursing positions at the IWK, plus 27 at EHS.
- If possible, if you can go one by one, maybe we can start with the physicians. What is the updated number right now? Then nursing – if you could break them down for us. That would be wonderful. Then we'll go to the CCAs after that.
- In September, there were 19.5 emergency medicine vacancies. I'm wondering how many emergency medicine vacancies there are today.
- How many paramedic vacancies do we currently have?

## **TRANSCRIPT**

A link to a transcript of this meeting can be found at:

<https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/committees/standing/health/archive/health>

**WITNESSES**

Department of Health and Wellness

- Deputy Minister Jeannine Lagassé
- Ms. Tanya Penney, Senior Executive Director, Clinical

Nova Scotia Health Authority

- Ms. Karen Oldfield, Interim President and CEO
- Dr. Todd Hatchette, Chief, Division of Microbiology, Dept. of Pathology and Laboratory

Wellness Within

- Ms. Martha Paynter, Board Chair and Coordinator

IWK Health

- Dr. Melissa Brooks, Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Sexual Health Nova Scotia

- Mx. Leigh Heide, Provincial Coordinator

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**Correspondence:**

Correspondence from Minister of Seniors and Long-Term Care re: staffing calculations. Response to a letter sent from the Standing Committee on Health after its meeting of February 8, 2022. Accepted without comment.

Correspondence from Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment re: staffing vacancies. Response to requests for information made at meeting of March 8, 2022. Accepted without comment.

**Other Business:**

Date of May meeting on Government Initiatives of Ambulance Availability and Offload Delays, and DHW Response: Committee agreed by consensus to Tuesday, May 17, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

Date of Meeting on Cardiac Arrest Outcomes (Extra meeting, not in regular schedule): Committee agreed by consensus to Tuesday, May 31 (2:00 to 4:00 pm).

Planning for the next agenda-setting: Committee agreed by consensus to devote the July 12 meeting to agenda-setting, instead of adding it to the end of a meeting with witnesses.

## **DOCUMENTATION**

The following information was requested from the Nova Scotia Health Authority. The reply was included in a joint response from the Department of Health and Wellness:

- There are only four locations where surgical abortions are offered through the NSHA. That includes the Women's Choice Clinic at the QEII, the South Shore Regional, the Valley Regional, and the Colchester East Hants Health Centre. Missing from this are locations in Yarmouth, Amherst, Antigonish, and Sydney. What is being done for the NSHA to expand the access? Maybe to Karen Oldfield?

The following information was requested and has been received from the Department of Health and Wellness:

- There's a Women's Choice Clinic ... at the QEII. They have a program where women who are unable to afford birth control but receive an abortion can have an IUD inserted free of charge. As someone mentioned – I think it was MLA Leblanc – saying that you have MSI for the person, but the device is not covered. The funds to pay for this are through the QEII Foundation. Last year, the government made an investment in the foundation to cover the costs for up to one year. There's a need for more sustainable funding, as we've heard. What conversations are under way and being had in that regard, as part of your review?

## **TRANSCRIPT**

A link to a transcript of this meeting can be found at:

<https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/committees/standing/health/archive/health>

**GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES OF AMBULANCE AVAILABILITY  
AND OFFLOAD DELAYS, AND DHW RESPONSE**

**May 17, 2022**

**WITNESSES**

Department of Health and Wellness

- Craig Beaton, Associate Deputy Minister
- Jeff Fraser, Executive Director, Emergency Health Services Branch

Emergency Medical Care Inc.

- Charbel Daniel, Executive Director, Provincial Operations
- Jan Jensen, Executive Director, Medical Communications, Patient Flow and System Performance

International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 727

- Kevin MacMullin, Business Manager
- Michael Nickerson, Business Agent

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**Correspondence:**

April 25, 2022 email from Sharon MacIsaac re: new preschool autism services. Accepted without comment.

**Other Business:**

May 31 meeting: At the suggestion of John White, MLA, the committee agreed by consensus to offer the May 31 witnesses extra time to give their presentation, since they were appearing at their own request. This would be deducted from members' Q&A time. The clerk was instructed to offer them 20 minutes of opening remarks, instead of the usual 10 minutes.

**DOCUMENTATION**

The following information was requested and has been received from the Department of Health and Wellness:

- The last time we met at Public Accounts Committee, there was some conversation based on a request from paramedics to have a provision of statistics around half-staffed or empty ambulances, hours of forced overtime, and the numbers of paramedics who are not able to access vacation time. At the time, Mr. Beaton and Ms. Jensen both committed to going back and seeing what information could be made available. I'm wondering if either of you have any updates.

**Tabled document:**

During his closing remarks, Kevin MacMullin referred to a printout of a web page on “Faces of Paramedicine,” the theme for the following week’s Paramedic Services Week 2022. Mr. MacMullin emailed the link to the committee the next day.

**TRANSCRIPT**

A link to a transcript of this meeting can be found at:

<https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/committees/standing/health/archive/health>



## **NOTE**

This was an extra meeting scheduled in response to the witnesses' request to appear before the committee. At the December 7, 2021 organizational/agenda-setting meeting, members agreed to hold it outside the regular meeting dates.

## **WITNESSES**

(Because most of these witnesses have multiple professional affiliations, they are not grouped under specific organizations.)

- Dr. John Sapp, Professor of Medicine, Physiology and Biophysics, Assistant Dean of Clinical Research, Dalhousie University; Attending staff, Division of Cardiology, Heart Rhythm Service, QEII Health Sciences Centre; Cardiologist/Electrophysiologist, Maritime Heart Centre
- Dr. Santokh Dhillon, Associate Professor, Dept. of Pediatrics, Dalhousie University; Pediatric Cardiologist/Electrophysiologist, IWK Children's Heart Centre; Braveheart Support Society
- Dr. Andrew Travers, Provincial Medical Director, Emergency Health Services; Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, (Cross) Department of Community Health and Epidemiology, Dalhousie University
- Mike Janczyszyn, Advanced Care Paramedic; EHS AED Registry Program Coordinator, Emergency Health Services
- Kathryn Rand, Director of Health Policy and Systems, Heart & Stroke Nova Scotia

## **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### **Correspondence:**

Emails between Committee Clerk Judy Kavanagh and Dept. of Health and Wellness Deputy Minister Jeannine Lagassé re: postponing scheduled appearance on Vaccine Booster Shots. Accepted, with comment that members hoped this meeting could be held in August or September.

### **Other Business:**

Agenda-setting on June 14: Because the June witnesses had asked to postpone their appearance, and because theirs was the final topic on the current agenda, the committee had given unanimous consent in a May 25 email poll to move its next agenda-setting to June 14 from July 12. The Chair reminded all members to submit their list of proposed topics to the clerk by the next day (June 1).

**DOCUMENTATION**

No further information was requested at this meeting.

**TRANSCRIPT**

A link to a transcript of this meeting can be found at:

<https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/committees/standing/health/archive/health>

**NOTE**

In separate email polls, members gave unanimous consent allowing Rafah DiCostanzo, MLA and Kendra Coombes, MLA to attend the meeting by videoconference, for health reasons. At the beginning of the meeting, the other members agreed by consensus that the two members attending virtually could take part in voting.

**WITNESSES**

None

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**Correspondence:**

June 3, 2022 letter from Jeannine Lagassé, Deputy Minister of Health and Wellness, in response to requests for information made at April 12 meeting. Accepted without comment.

June 8, 2022 request from Gender Affirming Care Nova Scotia (GACNS) to appear before the committee; and June 8, 2022 email from Kiran Sharma in support of request from Gender Affirming Care Nova Scotia

- Before opening the floor for discussion on these two pieces of correspondence, the Chair proposed that the committee adopt a new approach to requests to appear: rather than considering them as extra topics (which can result in a roster of seven or eight topics), the committee could look at each one as it comes in, and keep it in mind for the next agenda-setting, as a topic a caucus might want to bring forward as one of its own. Members agreed to this by consensus.
- The Chair asked whether the NDP or Liberals wished to put it forward as one of their topics. Members from both said they did not want to give up one of the topics they had already brought to the agenda-setting, but they very much hoped the government members would propose it as one of their own. A motion was introduced:
  - I move that gender-affirming care be added as the first topic for the Health Committee and that the following witnesses be invited: Gender Affirming Care Nova Scotia; officials from the Department of Health and Wellness, and the Office of Addictions and Mental Health - Dr. Hickcox and Tanya Penney; and Veronica Merryfield, founder of the Cape Breton Transgender Network.
    - Moved by John White, MLA

An amendment was proposed:

- I still think we could add a couple of people to the witness list. One would be Dr. Jacqueline Gahagan from Mount Saint Vincent University, who has led regional and national studies on issues for youth and on issues for seniors and everyone

in between, so has some really important data to share. Also, Dr. Hali Bauld, who really is on the front lines of service delivery in this area - not just in Halifax.

- Moved by Lisa Lachance
- Amendment defeated
- Original motion carried

### **Agenda-Setting:**

An agenda-setting was held. Members agreed to motions in support of the following:

#### **Progressive Conservative**

Gender Affirming Care (See motion, above)

- Gender Affirming Care Nova Scotia
- Tanya Penney, Senior Executive Director, Clinical, Dept. of Health and Wellness
- Dr. Samuel Hickcox, Chief Officer, Office of Addictions and Mental Health
- Veronica Merryfield, Cape Breton Transgender Network

Innovation Hub

- Representatives from NS Health, including the Vice President Research, Innovation & Discovery and Chief Nurse Executive

Mental Health Supports for First Nations Communities

- Lindsay Peach (Tajikeimik)
- NS Health/IWK representatives
- Directors from First Nations Health Centres
- Office of Addictions and Mental Health

#### **Liberal**

Surgical Backlogs and the Extension of Operating Room Hours

- Karen Oldfield, CEO, Nova Scotia Health Authority
- Dr. Doug Sinclair, Vice President, Medicine, Quality & Safety, IWK
- Jeannine Lagasse, Deputy Minister, Department of Health and Wellness
- Janet Hazelton, President, Nova Scotia Nurses' Union
- Dr. Leisha Hawker, President, Doctors Nova Scotia
- Dr. Philip Cyr, CEO, Scotia Surgery Inc.

Delivery of 4.1 Hours of Care Per Resident in Long-Term Care

- Paul LaFleche, Deputy Minister, Dept. of Seniors and Long-Term Care
- Tracey Barbrick, Associate Deputy Minister, Dept. of Seniors and Long-Term Care
- Dr. Kevin Orrell, CEO, Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment
- Janet Hazelton, President, Nova Scotia Nurses' Union

- Nan McFadgen, President, CUPE Nova Scotia

### New Democratic Party

#### Funding for Public Health in Nova Scotia

- Jeannine Lagasse, Deputy Minister, Dept. of Health and Wellness (or designate)
- Dr. Robert Strang, Chief Medical Officer of Health
- Dr. Sara Kirk, School of Health and Human Performance, Dalhousie Univ.
- Dr. Katherine Fierlbeck, Dept. of Political Science, Dalhousie University

### Other Business:

Request for possible witness change in meeting on Vaccine Booster Shots: ADM Kathleen Trott to replace DM Jeannine Lagassé, if necessary. Committee agreed by consensus.

Motion: A motion was introduced:

- I move the committee write a letter to the Minister of Health and Wellness calling on her to issue this update on their health plan as soon as possible.
  - Moved by Kendra Coombes, MLA
  - Motion defeated

### **DOCUMENTATION**

No further information was requested at this meeting.

### **TRANSCRIPT**

A link to a transcript of this meeting can be found at:

<https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/committees/standing/health/archive/health>

**WITNESSES**

Nova Scotia Health Authority

- Dr. Gail Tomblin Murphy, Vice-President, Research, Innovation and Discovery and Chief Nurse Executive
- Dr. Michael Dunbar, Orthopedic Surgeon (QEII Health Sciences Centre) and Innovator in Residence
- Doris Grant, Senior Director, Innovation, Research, Innovation and Discovery
- Dr. Tara Sampalli, Senior Scientific Director, Research, Innovation and Discovery

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**Correspondence:**

Letters to and from the Department of Health and Wellness re: ambulances and paramedics, arising from a request for information made at the May 17, 2022 meeting. Accepted without comment.

**Other Business:**

Requests for witness substitutions at Sept. 13, 2022 meeting on Surgical Backlogs and the Extension of Operating Room Hours

- Department of Health and Wellness: Colin Stevenson, Chief of System Integration and responsible for the Perioperative file in place of Deputy Minister Jeannine Lagassé
- Nova Scotia Health: Senior staff member in place of CEO Karen Oldfield
  - Members agreed by consensus to ask the clerk to reschedule this meeting to a date all six invited witnesses are able to attend, instead of accepting substitutes for DM Lagassé and Ms. Oldfield.

A motion was introduced:

- I move that this committee formally request the Nova Scotia Health Authority to provide a copy of the contract agreement with Sobeys and/or Lawton's for the delivery of the pharmacy walk-in clinic program offered in Truro and New Glasgow.
  - Moved by Rafah DiCostanzo
  - Motion defeated 5-3 in a recorded vote (Yeas: Leblanc, DiCostanzo, Maguire. Nays: Sheehy-Richard, Palmer, White, MacDonald, Smith.)

## **DOCUMENTATION**

The following information was requested by the committee and a response has been received from the Nova Scotia Health Authority:

- If after our meeting, I could maybe get the name of the contact for the innovation champion in the Western Zone, that would be great.

### **Tabled documents:**

Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA tabled the following links to documents to support statistics and anecdotes he had cited while questioning witnesses:

[https://www.nshealth.ca/sites/nshealth.ca/files/finding\\_a\\_primary\\_care\\_provider\\_in\\_nova\\_scotia\\_report\\_july\\_2022.pdf](https://www.nshealth.ca/sites/nshealth.ca/files/finding_a_primary_care_provider_in_nova_scotia_report_july_2022.pdf)

<https://www.halifaxexaminer.ca/province-house/pharmacists-nurse-practitioners-to-provide-collaborative-health-care-in-pilot-project-at-two-nova-scotia-pharmacies/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/ns-patients-leaving-er-without-treatment-1.6516963>

## **TRANSCRIPT**

A link to a transcript of this meeting can be found at:

<https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/committees/standing/health/archive/health>

**NOTE**

This meeting was postponed from its original date of August 9, 2022, because of the illness of one of the witnesses.

**WITNESSES**

**Department of Health and Wellness**

- Jeannine Lagassé, Deputy Minister
- Kathleen Trott, Associate Deputy Minister
- Dr. Robert Strang, Chief Medical Officer of Health

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**Correspondence:**

July 19 email from Dr. Gail Tomblin Murphy, Nova Scotia Health Authority, in response to a request for information made at the July 12, 2022 meeting. Accepted without comment.

August 21 email from Sabrina Gannon regarding COVID-19 Vaccination Booster Availability. A motion was introduced:

- I move to refer the correspondence from Sabrina Gannon regarding vaccine booster availability to the Department of Health and Wellness for a response.
  - Moved by Kent Smith, MLA
  - Motion carried.

The clerk forwarded this correspondence to the Minister on August 31.

**September meeting: Date, time, and virtual witness participation:**

Because of witness availability, the committee agreed by consensus that the September meeting on Public Health Funding in Nova Scotia would take place on Thursday, September 29, from noon to 2 pm. They further agreed that witnesses Dr. Sara Kirk and Dr. Katherine Fierlbeck could take part virtually, and that Dr. Fierlbeck would leave the meeting early, at about 1:30 pm, to attend another meeting.

**DOCUMENTATION**

No further information was requested at this meeting.



**TRANSCRIPT**

A link to a transcript of this meeting can be found at:

<https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/committees/standing/health/archive/health>

# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX A - MOTIONS

The following is a list of motions introduced by the Standing Committee on Health:

### December 7, 2021

The committee discussed regular meeting dates and times. A motion was introduced:

- I move that the committee keep its current practice of meeting monthly, generally on the second Tuesday of each month between 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm.
  - Moved by Chris Palmer, MLA
- I'll propose an amendment to the current motion that we meet biweekly.
  - Moved by Hon. Zach Churchill, MLA
  - Amendment defeated
  - Original motion carried

Members discussed agenda-setting procedures. A motion was introduced:

- I'd like to move the motion that the government caucus will get three regular or emergency topics per six-meeting rotation. The Official Opposition will get two regular or emergency topics per six-meeting rotation and the third party will get one regular or emergency topic per six-meeting rotation. The standing committee will rotate through the topics using the following order: government, Official Opposition, government, third party, government, Official Opposition. Once the list of six topics is exhausted, the Chair of this committee will hold another agenda-setting meeting that will follow the above rotation.
  - Moved by Danielle Barkhouse, MLA

An amendment was proposed:

- I move to make an amendment to the motion and that is to allow the third party to be able to bring two topics to the committee.
  - Moved by Kendra Coombes, MLA
  - Amendment defeated
  - Original motion carried

In further discussion, the committee gave the clerk some flexibility in scheduling order, depending on witness availability.

Members discussed a Nov. 12, 2021 letter from Heart and Stroke, IWK, Braveheart Support Society, Maritime Heart Centre requesting to appear before the committee to discuss improving cardiac arrest outcomes in Nova Scotia. A motion was introduced:

- I move that the committee accept the request of the Heart & Stroke Foundation, IWK, Braveheart Support Society, and Maritime Heart Center to appear before the committee to discuss improving cardiac arrest outcomes in Nova Scotia. This would be a shared seventh topic in addition to the six that were decided on today.
  - Moved by Danielle Barkhouse, MLA
  - Motion carried

An agenda-setting was held. Members agreed to motions in support of the following:

### Progressive Conservative

#### Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment

- Dept. of Health and Wellness: Jeannine Lagassé, Deputy Minister
- Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment: Dr. Kevin Orrell, CEO

#### Vaccine Booster Shots

- Dept. of Health and Wellness: Jeannine Lagassé, Deputy Minister; Dr. Robert Strang, Chief Medical Officer of Health

#### Auditor General's 2017 Recommendations re: Mental Health Services in the Province

- Dept. of Health and Wellness: Jeannine Lagassé, Deputy Minister

### Liberal

#### Impacts of Staffing Shortages in Long Term Care

- Dept. of Seniors and Long Term Care: Paul LaFleche, Deputy Minister; Tracey Barbrick, Associate Deputy Minister; Vicki Elliott-Lopez, Senior Executive Director
- Nova Scotia Nurses' Union: Janet Hazelton, President
- CUPE Nova Scotia: Nan McFadgen, President

#### Government Initiatives of Ambulance Availability and Offload Delays, and DHW response

- Dept. of Health and Wellness: Craig Beaton, Associate Deputy Minister & staff
- IUOE Local 727 (Nova Scotia Paramedics Union): Mike Nickerson, Business Manager, or designate

### New Democratic Party

#### Access to Birth Control and Sexual Health Services

- Nova Scotia Health: Karen Oldfield, President and CEO
- Dept. of Health and Wellness: Jeannine Lagassé, Deputy Minister
- Wellness Within: Martha Paynter
- IWK Emergency Dept: Alyson Holland, Director of Social Pediatrics
- Sexual Health Nova Scotia: Leigh Heide, Executive Director

After the agenda-setting motions were passed, a new motion was introduced in reference to the third PC topic, Auditor General's 2017 Recommendations re: Mental Health Services in the Province:

- I would like to revisit my earlier suggestion that we ask the Auditor General to come to the committee either in advance of the meeting that morning or at another time that works for everyone to provide us with an in camera briefing on that report.
  - Moved by Susan Leblanc, MLA
  - Motion defeated

### **January 11, 2022**

The committee discussed the venue for the February 8 meeting. A motion was introduced:

- I move that unless Public Health restrictions allow for full in-person participation for MLAs and legislative staff, the February meeting be held in a virtual format.
  - Moved by John White, MLA
  - Motion carried

The Chair announced the Department of Health and Wellness had asked in correspondence with the clerk whether the Associate Deputy Minister could appear at the meeting on the Auditor General's 2017 Recommendations on Mental Health Services in the Province, instead of the Deputy Minister. The department had cited demands the COVID-19 pandemic was making on all staff. A motion was introduced:

- I move that for the suggested topic entitled Auditor General's 2017 recommendations regarding mental health services in the province, that at the request of the department, the Associate Deputy Minister and staff take the place of Deputy Minister Lagassé, and that Deputy Minister Lagassé be removed from the witness list
  - Moved by John MacDonald, MLA

An amendment was proposed:

- I'll move to amend to also invite the Auditor General.
  - Moved by Hon. Zach Churchill, MLA

Some discussion followed.

- Amendment defeated
- Original motion carried

There was some discussion about requesting statistics from the Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care. Two motions were introduced:

- [B]e it resolved that the Health Committee request the Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care to resume the practice of publicly reporting wait times for placement in long-term care by the next Health Committee meeting in February in line with the minister's public commitment to do so.
  - Moved by Hon. Zach Churchill, MLA
  - Motion carried
- I move that the Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care provide details on staffing calculations that would achieve the 4.1 care hours per resident per day with 2,500 new single long-term care beds, as per the Minister's mandate letter.
  - Moved by Rafah DiCostanzo, MLA

- Meeting time elapsed before committee could vote

### **February 8, 2022**

Members discussed whether to hold the March 8 meeting in person, pending advice of the Office of Public Health. A motion was introduced:

- “I move to have the members polled closer to the meeting date about what we prefer. As you know, this is an ever-changing situation, and things could be different a month from now.”
  - Moved by Kendra Coombes, MLA

An amendment was proposed:

- “[T]hat we will go virtual and then we’ll poll shortly before the meeting, hopefully getting unanimous consent to go in person. Just so we’re clear, it is our intention that we want to be back in person as soon as it is safe to do so.”
  - Moved by Kent Smith, MLA
  - Amendment accepted
  - Amended motion carried

Motion held over from January 11 meeting:

- I move that the Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care provide details on staffing calculations that would achieve the 4.1 care hours per resident per day with 2,500 new single long-term care beds, as per the Minister’s mandate letter.
  - Moved by Rafah DiCostanzo, MLA
  - Motion carried.

The Chair noted the clerk would write a letter on behalf of the committee to the Department, making this request.

### **March 8, 2022**

A motion was introduced:

- I move that this committee formally request the Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment provide a quarterly report to the committee outlining recruitment and retention goals, progress against goals, vacancies, and the return on investment of incentives as it pertains to physicians (family doctors and specialists), nurses (nurse practitioners, registered nurses, and licensed practical nurses), continuing care assistants, paramedics, and medical laboratory technicians.
  - Moved by Rafah DiCostanzo, MLA
  - Motion defeated in a recorded vote. (Yeas: Clark, DiCostanzo, Leblanc, Lachance. Nays: Smith, Palmer, White, Barkhouse, Boudreau)

### **June 14, 2022**

Members discussed a request from Gender Affirming Care Nova Scotia to appear before the committee. A motion was introduced:

- I move that gender-affirming care be added as the first topic for the Health Committee and that the following witnesses be invited: Gender Affirming Care Nova Scotia; officials from the Department of Health and Wellness, and the Office of Addictions and Mental Health - Dr. Hickcox and Tanya Penney; and Veronica Merryfield, founder of the Cape Breton Transgender Network.
  - Moved by John White, MLA

An amendment was proposed:

- I still think we could add a couple of people to the witness list. One would be Dr. Jacqueline Gahagan from Mount Saint Vincent University, who has led regional and national studies on issues for youth and on issues for seniors and everyone in between, so has some really important data to share. Also, Dr. Hali Bauld, who really is on the front lines of service delivery in this area - not just in Halifax.
  - Moved by Lisa Lachance
  - Amendment defeated.
  - Original motion carried.

An agenda-setting was held. Members agreed to motions in support of the following:

### Progressive Conservative

Gender Affirming Care (See motion, above)

- Gender Affirming Care Nova Scotia
- Tanya Penney, Senior Executive Director, Clinical, Dept. of Health and Wellness
- Dr. Samuel Hickcox, Chief Officer, Office of Addictions and Mental Health
- Veronica Merryfield, Cape Breton Transgender Network;

Innovation Hub

- Representatives from NS Health, including the Vice President Research, Innovation & Discovery and Chief Nurse Executive

Mental Health Supports for First Nations Communities

- Lindsay Peach (Tajikeimik)
- NS Health/IWK representatives
- Directors from First Nations Health Centres
- Office of Addictions and Mental Health

### Liberal

Surgical Backlogs and the Extension of Operating Room Hours

- Karen Oldfield, CEO, Nova Scotia Health Authority
- Dr. Doug Sinclair, Vice President, Medicine, Quality & Safety, IWK
- Jeannine Lagasse, Deputy Minister, Department of Health and Wellness
- Janet Hazelton, President, Nova Scotia Nurses' Union

- Dr. Leisha Hawker, President, Doctors Nova Scotia
- Dr. Philip Cyr, CEO, Scotia Surgery Inc.

#### Delivery of 4.1 Hours of Care Per Resident in Long-Term Care

- Paul LaFleche, Deputy Minister, Dept. of Seniors and Long-Term Care
- Tracey Barbrick, Associate Deputy Minister, Dept. of Seniors and Long-Term Care
- Dr. Kevin Orrell, CEO, Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment
- Janet Hazelton, President, Nova Scotia Nurses' Union
- Nan McFadgen, President, CUPE Nova Scotia

#### New Democratic Party

##### Funding for Public Health in Nova Scotia

- Jeannine Lagasse, Deputy Minister, Dept. of Health and Wellness (or designate)
- Dr. Robert Strang, Chief Medical Officer of Health
- Dr. Sara Kirk, School of Health and Human Performance, Dalhousie Univ.
- Dr. Katherine Fierlbeck, Dept. of Political Science, Dalhousie University

##### In Other Business, a motion was introduced:

- I move the committee write a letter to the Minister of Health and Wellness calling on her to issue this update on their health plan as soon as possible.
  - Moved by Kendra Coombes, MLA
  - Motion defeated

#### **July 12, 2022**

##### A motion was introduced:

- I move that this committee formally request the Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment provide a quarterly report to the committee outlining recruitment and retention goals, progress against goals, vacancies, and the return on investment of incentives as it pertains to physicians (family doctors and specialists), nurses (nurse practitioners, registered nurses, and licensed practical nurses), continuing care assistants, paramedics, and medical laboratory technicians.
  - Moved by Rafah DiCostanzo, MLA
  - Motion defeated in a recorded vote. (Yeas: Clark, DiCostanzo Leblanc, Lachance. Nays: Smith, Palmer, White, Barkhouse, Boudreau)

#### **August 30, 2022**

##### Upon receipt of an August 21 email from Sabrina Gannon regarding COVID-19 Vaccination Booster Availability, a motion was introduced:

- I move to refer the correspondence from Sabrina Gannon regarding vaccine booster availability to the Department of Health and Wellness for a response.



- Moved by Kent Smith, MLA
- Motion carried.

The clerk forwarded this correspondence to the Minister for response on August 31.

## APPENDIX B – DOCUMENTATION

The following is a list of documents and information requested and received by the Standing Committee on Health:

### January 11, 2022

As a result of a motion passed during the meeting, a letter was sent from the Committee to the Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care, requesting that it “resume the practice of publicly reporting wait times for placement in long-term care by the next Health Committee meeting in February in line with the minister’s public commitment to do so.” The Minister’s reply was received and acknowledged at the February 8 meeting.

### February 8, 2022

As a result of a motion passed during the meeting, the following information was requested and received from the Department of Seniors and Long-term Care:

- Details on staffing calculations that would achieve the 4.1 care hours per resident per day with 2,500 new single long-term care beds, as per the Minister’s mandate letter.

### March 8, 2022

The following information was requested and has been received from the Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment:

- In October, it was reported that the Nova Scotia Health Authority had 172 physician vacancies that they were recruiting for, along with 1,086 registered nursing postings, 235 licensed practical nursing vacancies, and 12 unfilled nurse practitioner jobs, and an estimated 448 continuing care assistant jobs across the province. This does not include other numbers from the IWK, efforts for recruiting six physicians and 62 nursing positions at the IWK, plus 27 at EHS.
- If possible, if you can go one by one, maybe we can start with the physicians. What is the updated number right now? Then nursing – if you could break them down for us. That would be wonderful. Then we’ll go to the CCAs after that.
- In September, there were 19.5 emergency medicine vacancies. I’m wondering how many emergency medicine vacancies there are today.

How many paramedic vacancies do we currently have?.

### April 12, 2022

The following information was requested from the Nova Scotia Health Authority. The reply was included in a joint response from the Department of Health and Wellness:

- There are only four locations where surgical abortions are offered through the NSHA. That includes the Women’s Choice Clinic at the QEII, the South Shore Regional, the

Valley Regional, and the Colchester East Hants Health Centre. Missing from this are locations in Yarmouth, Amherst, Antigonish, and Sydney. What is being done for the NSHA to expand the access? Maybe to Karen Oldfield?

The following information was requested and has been received from the Department of Health and Wellness:

- There's a Women's Choice Clinic ... at the QEII. They have a program where women who are unable to afford birth control but receive an abortion can have an IUD inserted free of charge. As someone mentioned – I think it was MLA Leblanc – saying that you have MSI for the person, but the device is not covered. The funds to pay for this are through the QEII Foundation. Last year, the government made an investment in the foundation to cover the costs for up to one year. There's a need for more sustainable funding, as we've heard. What conversations are under way and being had in that regard, as part of your review?

### **May 17, 2022**

The following information was requested and has been received from the Department of Health and Wellness:

- The last time we met at Public Accounts Committee, there was some conversation based on a request from paramedics to have a provision of statistics around half-staffed or empty ambulances, hours of forced overtime, and the numbers of paramedics who are not able to access vacation time. At the time, Mr. Beaton and Ms. Jensen both committed to going back and seeing what information could be made available. I'm wondering if either of you have any updates.

### Tabled document:

During his closing remarks, witness Kevin MacMullin referred to a printout of a web page on "Faces of Paramedicine," the theme for the following week's Paramedic Services Week 2022. Mr. MacMullin emailed the link to the committee the next day.

### **July 12, 2022**

The following information was requested by the committee and a response has been received from the Nova Scotia Health Authority:

- If after our meeting, I could maybe get the name of the contact for the innovation champion in the Western Zone, that would be great.

### Tabled documents:

Hon. Brendan Maguire, MLA tabled the following links to documents to support statistics and anecdotes he had cited while questioning witnesses:

[https://www.nshealth.ca/sites/nshealth.ca/files/finding a primary care provider in nova scotia report july 2022.pdf](https://www.nshealth.ca/sites/nshealth.ca/files/finding_a_primary_care_provider_in_nova_scotia_report_july_2022.pdf)

<https://www.halifaxexaminer.ca/province-house/pharmacists-nurse-practitioners-to-provide-collaborative-health-care-in-pilot-project-at-two-nova-scotia-pharmacies/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/ns-patients-leaving-er-without-treatment-1.6516963>

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