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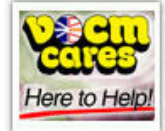
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Opposition Calling for Big Changes in Wake of Cameron Report March 4, 2009

The Opposition parties are calling for changes at the highest levels of the health care system. It's a blunt reaction to the detailed [report](#) of the Cameron Inquiry on Hormone Receptor Testing. Opposition Leader Yvonne Jones says change is needed to restore confidence in health care delivery in the province. Jones says the Cameron Report identified obvious problems with the top positions in the system and she's calling for a change in leadership in both the Department of Health and [Eastern Health's](#) Board of Directors. NDP Leader Lorraine Michael says with the release of the report, she's more convinced than ever the entire provincial system needs to be examined. Both say they plan to ensure government addresses the recommendations in a timely and transparent manner.

Justice Margaret Cameron says the mistakes that led to retesting of hundreds of samples of breast tissue should not have happened and when discovered, were poorly handled. She has made recommendations to prevent future mistakes, and address areas of concern highlighted during the Inquiry. They include licenses for labs and accreditation programs for each of the province's health boards. Health boards are recommended to assess their future lab needs and improve recruitment and retention efforts. All IHC laboratory technologists should be required to complete mandatory continuing education each year. Each regional health authority must develop and maintain a crisis management plan. Justice Cameron recommends that government review section 8.1 of the Evidence Act and resolve any conflict between it and the Public Inquiries Act, to ensure peer review and quality assurance reports are accessible to Commissions of Inquiry. All regional health authorities must have a policy to deal with disclosure of adverse events and all communications on those events must be preserved. It is also recommended that government adopt apology legislation. Justice Cameron recommends the Health Minister report to the House of Assembly on the status of implementation of the recommendations by March 31st of 2010, something Ross Wiseman says government will do.

The report says the procedures and protocols within Eastern Health for ER/PR testing between 1997 and 2005 were so deficient as to be practically non-existent. Health Minister Ross





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Wiseman acknowledges it reflects a very sorry state of affairs.

It's a new day for Eastern Health, and now they continue efforts to restore confidence in the system. The Chair of Eastern Health Joan Dawe says she believes there was a serious lack of standards and quality measures in the lab between 1997 and 2005, and says moving forward, changes will have to be made. But when it comes to who's to blame, Dawe says she will need time to analyse the report. However, she says based on the issues clearly identified, many people are going to have to take responsibility for their actions. Dawe says the only way trust and confidence can be restored is through action, to show the public that there are improvements, and she says she's confident they can make that happen. Interim President and CEO Louise Jones says the process has begun. She points to new training, and new systems that have been put in place.

Peter Dawe with the [Canadian Cancer Society](#) says it remains to be seen how much responsibility is assumed by government and Eastern Health.

Ches Crosbie represents breast cancer patients in a class action suit against Eastern Health. The nearly 500 page document does not assign blame, but Crosbie says the report does not support the health authority's denial of liability.

The Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science and the Newfoundland and Labrador Society of Laboratory Technologists will go before the microphones this morning. Kurt Davis says he's pleased to see Cameron recognize the need for accreditation of lab technologists and assistants across the province. Davis says the Society has been keeping a close watch on the inquiry and have already made changes to ensure patient safety.

Breast cancer survivor Minnie Hoyles would like to see the development of a patient bill of rights. She says it's vital that patients become their own advocates.



Health Minister Ross Wiseman releases Cameron Report to the public. May 03, 2009.