



House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

Honourable Leo Glavine
Department of Health and Wellness
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February 11, 2021

Minister Glavine,

I write to you again to express my ongoing concerns regarding Emergency Health Services throughout our province and my entire constituency of Argyle-Barrington.

The issues facing our pre-hospital emergency health system are not new. While I have experienced the system's challenges first-hand as a paramedic, I continue to hear from former colleagues, patients and their families, various healthcare professionals as well as concerned residents who continue to express their apprehension for the dire state of the current pre-hospital emergency health system. Persistent, prolonged response times, delayed transfer times, unstaffed ambulances, poor availability of ambulances in our region and the impact of emergency room closures on the system have been the norm for far too long. This is completely unacceptable. I would be remiss if I did not note that the system issues are directly impacting negatively the work life of Nova Scotia paramedics. They are burning out. I am very concerned for what is to come. Each shift, they do the best that they can with what resources they have and I commend them for that.

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I recognize that system issues are complex. There have not been changes implemented to the system that have resulted in any noteworthy positive change. Off-load guideline standards from 2019 for a handful of Nova Scotia hospitals have disappeared. A pilot non-clinical transfer service was announced by your Government last year. This may be a step in the right direction. In a December 11, 2020 letter to you, I requested further details on this service, but I have yet to receive a response.

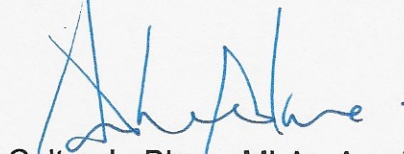
I have said it before, and I will say it again: with each passing day without comprehensive and meaningful change to this system, government continues to put the lives, health and safety of Nova Scotians at risk. Minister, I again question what it will take for government to finally open its eyes and take concrete action.

I continue to believe that solutions are at your fingertips. In October 2018, your government commissioned a review of the EHS system. I am appalled that the report remains concealed from Nova Scotians. Again, I call on you and your government to end the secrecy and finally unshelve the \$145,000-taxpayer funded Fitch & Associates Report. Residents of Argyle-Barrington – as do all Nova Scotians – deserve this and more.

If the Fitch and Associates Report will not be released, I respectfully ask for your Department's strategic plan to address the EHS system issues. Waiting for them to disappear is not going to work.

Again, how much worse does the situation need to get before it gets better?

Yours truly,



Colton LeBlanc, MLA - Argyle-Barrington
PC Pre-hospital and Preventative Care Critic

Cc: Municipality of the District of Argyle, Warden and Council
Municipality of Barrington, Warden and Council
Town of Clark's Harbour, Mayor and Council

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