

COR-2022-168728/01

March 16, 2022

Jackie Manthorne  
[jmanthorne@survivornet.ca](mailto:jmanthorne@survivornet.ca)

Dear Ms. Manthorne:

I am responding to your email of October 18, 2021, as well as your email of January 13, 2022, on behalf of the Canadian Cancer Survivor Network. In your emails, you expressed your significant concern with the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on cancer treatment and screenings across Atlantic Canada. My apology for a delayed response.

In your October email, you requested a meeting to present the Leger survey results, a survey conducted by the Canadian Cancer Survivor Network. Officials from the Regional Services Division of the Department of Health and Community Services would be interested in attending a virtual presentation regarding the results of this survey. In order to schedule a presentation, please contact Annette Bridgeman, Director of Regional Services at [AnnetteBridgeman@gov.nl.ca](mailto:AnnetteBridgeman@gov.nl.ca).

As you can appreciate, navigating through the COVID-19 pandemic has certainly been challenging, as we had to balance the need for appropriate access to healthcare while at the same time keeping our communities and healthcare facilities safe. Throughout the pandemic, emergency surgeries, cancer treatments and other emergency services went ahead as per normal, however there was a minor setback in these procedures due to the cyberattack in the fall, which affected all healthcare services across the province. Services have now been restored and the backlog in services continues to be addressed. Regional health authorities across the province continue to work very hard, and I am confident that all services will return to pre-pandemic levels in the very near future.

I would like to thank you for reaching out with your concerns, as well as, for your continued advocacy for appropriate access to cancer care services for those affected by cancer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Haggie".

**JOHN HAGGIE, MD, FRCS**  
MHA – Gander  
Minister

cc: Annette Bridgeman, Director, Regional Services