

Coalition Meeting
Dr. John Haggie, Minister of Health & Community Services
Confederation Building, HCS Executive Board Room
January 28, 2020

Notes are composed from the Coalition Agenda, previously circulated and submitted to Dr. Haggie and officials for the meeting.

Present: HCS: Dr. John Haggie, Heather Hanrahan, Deena Waddleton, And Alicia Anderson

Present: Coalition: Ann Marie Cleary, Neil Moores, Bob Corbett, Sharron Callahan, Ralph Morris, Bob Howard, Mike Siscoe, Doreen Noseworthy, Elaine Hutchings, Winston Fiander, and Patricia Parsons.

- **Can you advise us of the official position of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador with respect to National Pharmacare?**

What's the definition of universal? Is it insurer of everything or gap approach-fed's list, province's list and fill in gap. According to Dr. Haggie, there are two approaches and which is the best one to pick is the question. He doesn't mind how it works as long as federal govt. comes with its fair share, at least 50/50 dollars must be on the table, and we need the gains as well as the pain. What is the role of the private health insurance provider? Our understanding in health is that the feds will tell us what is happening, etc. He expects an F/P/T Health Ministers' Meeting before the end of April and anticipates it will be on the agenda.

- **Has the Government taken an official position on the Report of the Seniors' Advocate and what plan/strategy might you be considering to address the recommendations contained in the Report?**

He met with Dr. Brake in this room to address the recommendations. We have set up a working group with CCSD on the recommendations. The Home 1st Initiative has helped 2,600 of Dec. /19. We have been able to discharge patients from long care back into the community. Staffing at Long Term care is quite concerning.

Staffing review to coming up in the future but it is not a cheap project. New standards of care for both PCH's and LTC and funding levels are currently being looked at and legislative act to come the fall possibly. Dr. Haggie stated that the Coalition is not shy with making issues public and if we are supporting at home first, then we can get on the radio and tell our support. He feels there is not much uptake on things he says or lack of belief, so any support we can provide would be helpful. Government needs allies, smaller operators are taking over and building conglomerates and the message getting around is that seniors and vulnerable folks should be buying into institutional care as it is all inclusive and it is "what everyone should want as they age". Dr. Haggie says it is easier to work with Agency Managed Care as they have better values and are easier to approach.

- **Vaccinations/Medications/Opioids: What is the position of Government on high dose flu vaccine and other preventative vaccinations (shingles, pneumonia, etc.) for high risk seniors? Is there a plan to address the high use of opioids amongst seniors? How does the Government propose to address situations of low supply of certain drugs? Will the Government consider an adult oral health program? What is the current status of the dementia care strategy and palliative care strategy?**

We have changed the Regulations to allow pharmacist to provide a variety of vaccines at the pharmacy. Pneumonia vaccine is already offered to seniors; Zostovax, the shingles vaccine was not great, there are early reports that support a new shingles vaccine; huge price tag for new vaccination. As of January 31, any vaccine for a preventable disease can be administered by a pharmacist. There has been no discussion around an adult oral health program even though he has seen the federal messaging, but it has not been discussed with the feds yet. Dr. Haggie referenced the Adult Protection Legislation and the Patient Safety Act in discussion about patient care and safety in RHA facilities. Also looking at Virtual Care.

- **We ask that you undertake a conversation with the appropriate Minister (Minister of Government Services) to consider amendments to the Building Code that would require residential homes that provide service**

to seniors and other vulnerable persons to provide alternate sources of heat during power disruptions, i.e. generator.

Dr. Haggie will bring the matter forward to Service NL that has responsibility for the Building Code and Health. The Coalition will write a letter to both Ministers. Check both.

- **Is the Government still committed to erecting a plaque to commemorate the tragedy of the Chafe Nursing Home Fire? Could this be placed at the site of the new Goulds Fire Hall?**

Yes. The Coalition will make a joint submission to Minister Haggie and the Minister for Service NL, Minister Sherry Gambin-Walsh