

To All Members of MLAs and Law Amendment Committee

5 minutes was not enough. Forgive my need to be heard in a society that is sometimes very loud for those that sit in the shadows waiting to gain the courage to step back into the light.

I am sure you are all working tirelessly to review many pieces of Legislation for our Great Province to move ahead with Healthcare to keep pace with our growing population and to also provide quality care to patients of all ailments, ages and genders.

I am writing in one last attempt on behalf of the memories of a few beautiful souls and for that those may come after me. I do hope that you hear from more Nova Scotians regarding mental health needs, supports, lack of networking, the need for support groups and patience within the Healthcare Scenes. I know technology is fast pace and can be a wonderful tool full of new innovation and appealing to the younger generation as well. However, with great Power comes great responsibility.

I spent the greater part of a few days asking if this move to grant new Custodians was as serious an issue as I viewed it to be and the answers were all the same. Without hesitations..yes.

I must make one last attempt to please ask that we take a step back and see the bigger picture. The possible risks, the pros and cons. Technology is amazing, it can help to save lives!! yay! It can provide aggregate data in real time and loads of it.

Here come the cons, are we ready?? It can be breached, it is not always accurate and how many Nova Scotians read their Health Information Records to review and looks for inconsistencies or misinformation in the details? Could we put the Dr Patient trust in Jeopardy? I believe that because of the speed and haste of proposing this bill we may already have. That I am sure can be remedied with a few short announcements, hopefully a pause or even better, a retraction of this proposed bill.

The reality is that we also see reports of child abuse, a topic I chose not to mention in the House as there is a vulnerable audience at large and my intention is to be cautious and respectful of such audience as we move forward in an age where we need to begin to change the quiet polite narrative and instead address the Uncomfortable Truth. I have known many such individuals and so I email this with the hopes that careful consideration is taken and thoughts of whether or not this could impact current or future sensitive legal investigations. Many times medical records may become evidence files. For example when gender of any kind may experience Rape and need to visit a Hospital. I don't believe that is something that the public at large is comfortable being accessed by more than the few Healthcare Providers and Trauma Teams that they come into contact with.

The sensitive and long Journey into healing for many survivors is a scary one and in the beginning they may be extremely high risk. My personal opinion speaking from experience is of exactly that nature.

In closing I would remind members that our Privacy Commission does not have Jurisdiction to investigate all establishments where Custodians may have access or store Healthcare Information so the complaints process can be very limited as well as incomplete investigative information gathered. We also face a long backlog of investigations with the Privacy Commission this presents what should be a sound of alarm should many intrusions occur. There also exists no funding available to individual of such intrusions or pathway to guide them through the process of containment and perhaps accountability as we have seen reportedly in the news such as the Mass shooting caught up in major privacy breach reported in early 2023 to name but one.

My only goal is to keep all patients as safe as possible and keep those vows of confidence in tact that we not create a society of mistrust and having the sense of being misled. We dont know the gravity of a patients injuries after assault until they begin to share and we have only just begun. We must remember that those tales of survival must belong to them and with only perhaps that small piece of control left for them. It may be all the life line they have left.

Please allow some time to consult with specialists and know that this is bigger than all of us. We are all worthy of respect and deserve to have access, to safe Healthcare for everyone everywhere.

I appreciate the time it may take if this in fact reaches you. I believe we may have all at one time or another been impacted by unfortunate events. But I am hopeful that we can do better and so I have to know how moving forward hastily could be of any benefit.

Kind Regards,

Carrie Smith, Digby County N.S.

When we know better.
We do better.