

Hello Robert,

Your story regarding union concerns over patient health records management was shared with us. It's unfortunate that you didn't contact us for a response, as the information shared by union leaders is inaccurate. Here is the response we shared with other outlets yesterday, attributed to Andrew Nemirovsky, Senior Director, IM/IT.

Currently Nova Scotia Health manages the scanning and archiving of patient health records.

In an effort to continuously improve timely access to quality health information required for the delivery of the best patient care, we have been exploring leveraging an existing partnership with a company, with a local office, that specializes in managing patient health records and documentation, to manage this service on our behalf.

Since 1981, our existing vendor has been entrusted with records management for the former district health authorities and Nova Scotia Health and already manages more than 8 million of our records. At this time, we have not entered into an agreement with the vendor.

We first engaged our union partners in December 2019 and have provided opportunities to respond to our proposed plan. We are committed to continue working with our union partners to ensure employees are supported and collective agreements followed.

Should the decision be made to proceed after the holiday season, this would mean changes for some of our employees; however, our goal would be to find equivalent or like positions within the organization.

If we proceed, we will make every effort to minimize adverse effects on our employees. It is expected that any reduction in the number of employee positions would be achieved through vacancies and normal attrition.

We understand that this brings uncertainty and questions and we are continuing to evaluate to determine how we move forward. A release issued by the unions suggesting 91 jobs will be lost is inaccurate and may cause undue stress to our employees.

Thanks Robert. If you have any questions let me know.

Carla