

Honourable John Haggie
Minister of Health and Wellness

Department of
Health and Community Services
P.O. Box 8700
1st Floor, West Block
Confederation Building
100 Prince Philip Drive

St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear John Haggie

I am writing you about the ongoing issues surrounding the use of prescription opioids for the treatment of pain. As you know there has been too much hysteria created by social media as well as the health department in relation to an opioid crisis. As we stand back and watch the reduction of opioid prescriptions being written to pain patients, we continue to see a rise in the number of opioid related deaths here in Newfoundland and Labrador. Aren't we supposed to see the number of opioid related deaths decrease as the number of opioid scripts continue to decrease? It should be apparent, by now, that Chronic Pain patients have been and are still being used as collateral damage in this "war on pain patients." It should also be abundantly clear that the use of ILLICIT street drugs, most likely coming from China, has fuelled the opioid crisis in the past and will continue fuelling it for many years to come. What started as a policing issue against illegal street drugs has now turned into a public health issue against the treatment of Chronic Pain.

Since the launch of the newly revised 2010 opioid guidelines, in Newfoundland and Labrador, we are seeing the following trends:

1. Acute pain being undertreated and leading into Chronic Pain.
2. Chronic Pain survivors committing suicide.
3. Untreated pain causing heart attack, stroke, and death.

I think you would agree with the fact that, somewhere along the way, many officials, healthcare providers, and such, have lost perspective on what the opioid guidelines for the treatment of no cancer Chronic Pain were intended to accomplish. I'm sure I do not have to tell you what the definition of "guidelines" really means.

So, Mr. Haggie while people continue to suffer from pain needlessly in this province, my hope is that you will take action in our health department and stop the in accuracy of information being created around the treatment of Chronic Pain.

Regards,

Signature of Petition Supporter