



Health and Wellness
Office of the Minister

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Thank you for your email of September 8, 2018 about your experience at the Colchester East Hants Health Center in September 2014. I apologize for the delay in my response. I was very disheartened to read about what you have endured as a victim of sexual assault. I appreciate the time and effort you have taken in sharing your very private experience with me because it will help my work to continue to improve services for sexual assault victims in Nova Scotia.

The Premier has committed to having SANE services in Truro. Expanding SANE services in this area will assist to enhance system responsiveness to individuals who disclose an incident of sexual violence. It is an important component of a trauma-informed approach to the care of individuals who have experienced sexual assault. There is evidence that a service that promotes positive acceptance, restoration of dignity and control, and expression of concern for the individual's well-being promotes resiliency to mental illness and enhances health recovery.

We are developing a solution to mitigate current gaps in access in Cumberland and Colchester Counties, as well as identifying options to address service gaps in the longer term. Since you have given permission to share your story, I will be following up with the Nova Scotia Health Authority regarding your experience on September 18, 2014, so that the specifics can be used to make more improvements.

Again, thank you for taking the time to share your experience with me.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Randy Delorey'.

Randy Delorey, MLA
Minister of Health and Wellness

- c. Lindsay Peach, Vice President, Integrated Health Services Community Support and Management, Nova Scotia Health Authority