



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
Newfoundland and Labrador

James Dinn, M.H.A.
District of St. John's Centre

Tony Wakeham, Premier
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
PO Box 8700
Confederation Building
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

July 14, 2026

Dear Premier Wakeham,

RE: Consultations on Legislation on Children's Health Information

I am writing regarding the MyHealthNL letter sent to parents and guardians on June 19, 2026, that caused parents great anxiety over their children's healthcare and your response to the subsequent public debate. Releasing statements indicating that there are problems with policies governing the privacy of children's health information and that the legislation must be reviewed has unnecessarily exacerbated public anxiety.

The issue of consent and confidentiality is complex, nuanced, and must be handled with care and sensitivity. The CorCare letter sent to parents about access to their child's healthcare information was devoid of context to help parents understand how electronic health records, MyHealthNL, and the App, are integrated with the current health system. Nor did it help parents understand what rights they and their children have to their confidential personal health details.

Hearing that your government intends to introduce legislation during the fall sitting of the House of Assembly, despite not yet having consulted the Child and Youth Advocate, underscores the need to stress the importance of ensuring this process is conducted properly. It is deeply troubling that, weeks after the release of the CorCare letter, your government had not contacted the Child and Youth Advocate's office.

Federal legislation (Privacy Act and the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act -PIPEDA) and provincial legislation that govern access to health information was created over many years to protect our privacy. In our province, the Advance Health Care Directives Act already allows parents and guardians to have access to their children's medical information up to 16 years, which is older than ages specified by law in all other provinces except Quebec.

I have questions regarding the protection of the rights of children resulting from any changes that your government may implement.

The [Personal Health Information Act](#) (PHIA) is reviewed every five years and is up for review in 2026. Reviews in 2017 and 2021 did not result in any amendments. Will the PHIA receive the same fulsome review as in the past, or will it narrowly focus on consent and parental access to their children's health information?

A review of the [Children, Youth and Families Act](#) (CYFA) was begun in 2024, but no legislative changes have been put forward or a formal report released. Will you commit to releasing this information before changes to the PHIA are implemented?

The current unfortunate situation caused by miscommunication has placed additional strain on healthcare professionals, who must answer questions and calm fears because government bodies did not provide clear, factual, and transparent information to the public.

For these reasons, meaningful consultation must be a priority moving forward. Improvements can be made to the legislation, but only after thorough consultation with organizations such as Choices for Youth, Thrive and the Child Youth Advocate. Government must consult physicians, pediatricians, social workers, pharmacists, lawyers, and other professionals who work with or take care of the youth in our province. Most importantly parents and youth especially must have input.

I am concerned that changes made without proper and fulsome consultation could unintentionally erode children's rights in other ways. In my experience as a teacher, there were times when students confided in me about matters they did not want disclosed to parents. Teachers are expected to provide a safe space where students can speak freely and without judgement. This is not to suggest that this will occur, but rather to emphasize that this issue must be approached with extreme sensitivity and transparency to ensure children are protected, while also ensuring parents have access to the necessary information.

As Premier, you are tasked with providing leadership and communicating clearly and responsibly with the people of this province so that online hate, misinformation, and harmful rhetoric do not spread unchecked, potentially placing children at greater risk. We saw this happen after the CorCare letter was posted on social media. We too strongly condemn the hate directed at the Minister of Health.

I look forward to hearing you outline the plan openly to the public. I also hope you will ensure that accurate information is communicated directly by your government rather than solely through social media, so that we can properly address concerns and ensure the safety and well-being of everyone involved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Dinn', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

James Dinn, MHA
St. John's Centre
Leader, NL NDP

Cc. Lela Evans, Minister of Health and Community Services