



Justice Centre

for Constitutional Freedoms

September 8, 2020

Hugh J. A. Flemming, Q.C.
Minister of Health
HSBC Place, 5th Floor
P.O. Box 5100
Fredericton, NB, E3B 5G8

Dear Minister Flemming,

I write to enquire about the consequences of the decision to cancel surgeries, diagnostic testing and other medical procedures in New Brunswick, made on or about March 13. We understand that this decision was made in order to preserve hospital capacity and other medical resources, and to deal with a projected rise of COVID-19 hospitalizations and ICU-admissions. In order that the public may be more informed about the full costs associated with canceling such procedures, I request your answers to the following questions:

1. How many physician consultations, diagnostic imaging procedures, blood tests and surgeries were cancelled and postponed between March 13 and May 11?
2. What types of surgeries were postponed or canceled between March 13 and May 11? How many of each type?
3. Of those patients whose aforementioned medical procedures were postponed or canceled, how many died between March 13 and August 31, 2020? Of these, how many would not have died if their medical procedure had not been canceled?
4. Of those patients whose medical procedures were postponed or canceled but who did not die, how many suffered worsening conditions? Of those suffering worsening conditions, how many have suffered permanent damage to their health?
5. How many of the medical procedures that were cancelled were rebooked, and how many of those have now been completed?
6. By what date will the backlog of postponed and canceled medical procedures be fully cleared?

If I do not receive answers to the questions above, I will have to conclude that you have failed to obtain this important information, or that you are unwilling to disclose it, or some combination of the foregoing.

I look forward to your response.

Yours truly,

John Carpay, B.A., LL.B.
President
Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms