

Second OPINION

What is Health PEI's CEO TRYING TO HIDE?

Health PEI CEO Melanie Fraser showed up to a legislative committee in February ready to brag about the patient registry.

The boasting wasn't about reducing the number of Islanders without a doctor. That number has remained stubbornly high – despite all the public puff spewed by the CEO and Minister of Health.

No, Fraser wanted to talk about technology now behind the patient registry and how important a role it will play in the 'transformation' of the health system being led by KPMG, beneficiary of a sole-sourced contract worth \$6 million and counting.

"As I said, it tells us not just that information, but it also allows us to segment that information so that we're not just looking at the provincial total, but I understand where the registry is growing, community by community, across the province," the CEO told MLAs.

This is an important point because I filed a Freedom of Information request for the patient registry to be broken down by either postal code or community, information Health

PEI has released in the past. I also requested the number of Islanders affiliated to each medical home. This information is of public interest because it is directly tied to the patient registry, and a key political promise of the PC government.

Health PEI responded with data, but not the data requested.

As of August 1, 2025, the patient registry stood at 35,229 broken down by: West Prince 3958, East Prince 9713, Central Queens 1794, Queens 16625, Eastern Kings 328 and Southern Kings 2811.

As of August 18, 65,773 Islanders were affiliated with a patient medical home: West Prince 6230, East Prince 13,468, Central Queens 8702, Queens 31,273, Eastern Kings 0, Southern Kings 6100.

Fraser claimed the information requested is 'not available', an odd phrase for the CEO to use. "Not available" is not language found in FOIPP legislation when offering reasons to withhold known information.

It's clear from her reply, Health PEI's intent is to not be transparent. This directly contradicts what the CEO told MLAs.

"As I mentioned, we are going



Paul MacNeill

Against the Tide
paul@peicanada.com

to see fluctuations. We will see retirements and people who choose to move to other provinces result in more applicants. We will see newcomers to PEI result in more applicants, and that's good. We'll know where they are, we'll know where they're looking for care, we'll have that information available

to us, and more importantly, we'll have that information available to all."

Except Health PEI's \$350,000 per year boss, who promised not to publicly criticize government as a condition of employment, is not being transparent and the information is not available to all. Does Fraser believe Islanders have a right to know details 'community by community' or is she hiding behind the Freedom of Information Act to obfuscate transparency?

It sure seems the latter.

When I questioned the decision, suddenly the CEO claimed the request requires creation of a special algorithm.

Really? This excuse doesn't pass the giggle test. Or maybe it does if Health PEI is truly this incompetent.

When you sign up for the patient registry you are required to give your address and postal code. If Health PEI's technology is incapable of doing what an excel spreadsheet can deliver with a few keystrokes, in a matter of seconds, it is hardly transformative.

This blatant abuse of process is likely related to government's medical home rollout. Former

Premier King promised 30 medical homes would open, and be fully operational, by the end of 2024. Only 17 are open, and many of these operate at reduced capacity due to staffing shortages.

What is Melanie Fraser trying to hide? Could it be the panel size of physicians at medical homes? Could it be that many of the current homes are nowhere near fully operational?

Taxpayers have spent tens of millions of dollars on medical homes with little evidence of benefit. We have every right to see the basic information requested.

Even Melanie Fraser would publicly agree.

"This is one tool in our suite of tools as we modernize the health care system, as we try to be more transparent and accountable," Fraser told the committee.

If the Health PEI CEO believes in transparency she should act on it, not just use it as a political talking point to MLAs.

Paul MacNeill is Publisher of Island Press Limited. He can be contacted at paul@peicanada.com

Our SPACE Eastern Graphic Staff



Kyle Cotton

No one should die for opinion's sake

The beauty of living in PEI is that conversation is still encouraged. There are ways to get things done here without firing a gun at someone you disagree with.

So let us keep it that way. We can learn to co-exist despite differences of opinion.

After far-right American political commentator Charlie Kirk

was shot and killed at a university in Utah last week, one has to wonder how it got to this point.

Discussions about gun control are constantly ongoing yet the control is never taking shape.

And now, one of the leading activists against gun control was shot while he was talking about it.

But at least he was talking about it.

Kirk, although spewing misinformation, still understood the value of discourse and how important it is for humans to

talk problems out rather than come to a violent conclusion.

He did not deserve to die like that, for his political opinions. No one deserves to die like that.

Celebrating his death makes one no better than the negativity which Kirk continued to praise and push to the spotlight in his debates.

He even said it: when people stop talking, that's when violence happens.

The conversation is beginning to end and the fruits of that was a public execution.

We're only human and people

are going to have disagreements. But the only person in control of the actions is the person doing them.

Something else to note, although no, his death should not have happened, neither should the thousands of other victims who are killed due to gun violence in the US. Including many students just trying to go about their day at school.

Where was the outcry of support for them when they needed it?

It's a strange world.

Kyle Cotton



send your letters to
the editor

editor@peicanada.com
PO Box 790
Montague, PE COA 1R0

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