

I am appalled at the ambulance system in Nova Scotia. Yesterday morning I called for an ambulance for a possible heart attack. I say possible as my husband had never complained of soreness in his chest or arms. I tried 811 23 times but no answer. Called 911 at 10:55 spoke with EMT for 10 minutes, 18 seconds. Was assured the ambulance was on the way. The attendant I was speaking with once again assured me the ambulance was on the way and if I needed assistance to call back. I called the second time at 11:29 when I heard the siren travelling west on highway 3. It took about 5 more minutes to back into the driveway and get to the patient. Approximately 44 minutes!

I was back and forth trying to keep a 6 yr old calm and checking on my husband. When the ambulance finally arrived I went back upstairs to find my husband of 48 ½ years almost black. Well, bless the EMT', all three vehicles and the Barrington & Port Latour Fire Department, they got my husband breathing again and his heart beating. Off they go with the family not far behind.

So, now I sit in ICU, and am thankful I can do that., waiting for the next 48 hours....24 have passed since yesterday, waiting to find out if there is brain function caused by the lack of EMERGENCY services. If both ambulances were working we would be in Halifax having surgery but no surgery can bring back what he lost because of no blood or oxygen reaching the brain during the 44 minutes.

This occurred the day Jack Julien of CBC wrote in his article that Charbel Daniel, Exec Director of Provincial Operations for Nova Scotia's Health Services stated he was not aware of any cases where ambulance delays have harmed a patients health. Well now he knows of one.

If the ambulance service does not improve, if the Province does not ensure fire departments be trained to assist and allow them to attend patients, this will continue.

You could be next....we in Barrington need to have two ambulances on call 24 hours. We are too large an area for one. Fire departments also need to be active for the less traumatic incidents. Why did an ambulance have to come from Shelburne, almost 30 miles away? We are being lied to by the operations of ambulance service. I am keeping records, dates, times etc. as proof. Nova Scotia needs immediate health services, not next week, next year but NOW,

Get this province back on track, omnicrom is not the issue,it is the operation, it is the lack of pay to these valuable people that is deterring others from entering the courses needed for this job and those presently working are overworked. . Stop being so investor conscious and become more citizen conscious.

I am sending this to both the Shelburne and Argyle so they are aware and can begin moving quickly before this happens to more residents, Premier and to the Exec Director of Provincial Operations for Nova Scotia. Time is running out.