



Kim Adair
Office of the Auditor General
5161 George Street
Royal Center, Suite 400
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 1M7

March 19, 2024

Dear Ms. Adair,

I am writing to you today to request a value-for-money audit of the Houston government's health care app "YourHealthNS". The project, announced in November 2023 was developed, in part, through a Sole Source alternative procurement contract signed with Think Research in February 2023.

This sole-source contract for \$49.6 million is equivalent to what was spent by the Nova Scotia Health Authority on alternative procurements in all of 2020, the first year of the global pandemic.

As mentioned in your recent report on this government's development of transitional care facilities, alternative procurement when used in inappropriate circumstances "... results in an inappropriate circumvention of the procurement policy, a lack of transparency, fairness, and increases the risk the Province is not achieving value for money when spending taxpayer dollars."

Considering the current sole-source deal with Think Research is millions more than has been spent on the app to date and without the benefits of traditional procurement policy, I think there are real questions about this contract that should be investigated. At the federal level, we've recently seen how this type of procurement can lead to situations like the recent investigation into ArriveCAN.

Given the significant resources, attention, and advertising resources the Premier and his government have invested in YourHealthNS, and the unusual amount for this alternative procurement, we request that the Office of the Auditor General conduct a performance audit into the procurement and development of the YourHealthNS app to determine if appropriate processes were followed and whether Nova Scotians obtained good value for money.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Chender".

Claudia Chender
Leader, Nova Scotia New Democrats
MLA, Dartmouth South

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