
President's Letter

February 26, 2013

Transition to proposed governance model; Call for nominations for President-Elect



**Tony Gabriel,
MD, CCFP, FCFP
President**

Dear Colleagues:

As you are aware, a motion to adopt a new governance model for the NLMA received endorsement in principle at the 2012 AGM. The new model sets out a framework that includes a shift to a smaller, at-large board of directors, as well as the creation of several standing committees, councils and ad hoc committees.

Proposed Board Structure

The proposed new board structure moves away from the current representational model and towards a model that is policy and strategy oriented with broader functionality. Rather than represent a specific specialty, payment modality or geographic region, board members will be driven by the interests of the entire medical profession in the province. The Executive Committee will be disbanded and the Board alone would make all future governance decisions.

The proposed board structure will be comprised of nine voting members that include the president, vice-president, past president and six at-large directors, all of whom will be elected not nominated. The new board will also include three ex-officio members, including a board chair, a resident and medical student.

To ensure equal distribution of the six at-large board members, no more than 3 members will be elected from rural Newfoundland and Labrador and no more than 3 will be elected from the St. John's metro region (St. John's, Mount Pearl, Paradise, CBS and the North East Avalon). In the absence of any nominations/candidates, vacancies will be filled by recruitment, in keeping with the principle of equity. The executive positions of President, President-Elect and Past-President are exempt from geographical considerations.

The Transition

Consultations with members during the President's Tour indicated that the majority of members support the shift to a new governance model. To prepare for the transition should members vote to adopt the new model, processes must be in place to manage the overlap of old and new governance structures.

To accommodate the transition to a smaller board, no new board members will be nominated at this year's AGM. Instead, the seats of nine members whose term ends in June 2013 will not be replenished. The remaining board members will stay on to fulfill their terms to bridge the transition. This ensures that corporate memory and succession planning is not impacted. I will remain on the Board in my capacity as Past-President and Dr. Yordan Karavainov, the current President-Elect, will advance to President.

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The logo for the Newfoundland & Labrador Medical Association, featuring the letters 'NLMA' in a stylized, cursive script.

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The Board will eventually be reduced to nine directors through attrition as remaining members complete their terms. The positions of the new board structure (excluding the Past-President) will be filled through a general election in 2014, with all members having the opportunity to vote.

To ensure a President is in place when the new board structure comes into full effect, a new candidate for President-Elect must be nominated at this year's AGM. Therefore, the sole role of this year's Nominating Committee will be the selection of a President-Elect candidate. A general call for nominations has been included with this package. The deadline to submit nominees is **April 4, 2013**.

Vote on proposed governance model

Formal approval of the membership at large is required to authorize the new governance structure, which will be determined by a secret ballot vote prior to the AGM. The NLMA will distribute an information package in the coming weeks to outline the voting process.

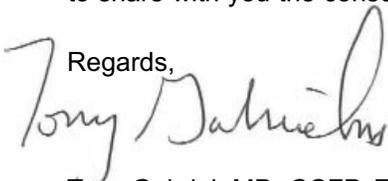
Contingencies are also in place should members vote to reject the proposed governance model. If members decide to uphold the status quo, Board Members whose terms expire in June 2013 have agreed to extend their terms for an additional year to preserve continuity.

The vote on the new governance model will not be held until the general membership has been consulted. To that end, a Special General Meeting of the membership will be held on **Tuesday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the main auditorium of the Health Sciences Centre**. The meeting will provide members an opportunity to learn and ask questions about the proposed changes prior to the vote.

Members who are unable to attend in person may participate by teleconference. We encourage those of you who are outside the St. John's area and unable to attend in person to gather as groups for the conference call. **Please call the NLMA office at (800)-563-2003 or email dosmond@nlma.nl.ca for the dial-in information.**

This is a very important meeting. You are all strongly encouraged to attend. If you are unable to attend, please ensure one of your colleagues from your practice or group is there to represent your views and to share with you the consensus of the meeting.

Regards,



Tony Gabriel, MD, CCFP, FCFP
President