
President's Letter

August 19, 2015



Jonathan Greenland, MD, FRCPC
President

NLMA Presents Member feedback to Minister of Health

Dear Colleagues:

Last month, I asked members throughout the province to communicate their observations on how health care funds can be saved or future costs avoided without reducing quality, safety or effectiveness of services.

The response was higher than expected. We received many detailed observations on a variety of issues ranging from the overuse of system resources; unnecessary diagnostic imaging and laboratory testing; administrative inefficiency; and the high rate of physician turnover.

We also received constructive recommendations on how to improve system efficiency and sustainability through better engagement with frontline physicians and other providers; better utilization of operating rooms; better palliative care and advanced health care directives; improved information technology and telehealth; improved pharmaceutical guidelines; and, increased health promotion and prevention. Members also had suggestions for reducing the number of no shows; streamlining specialist referral processes; advancing primary health care reform; and, improving the current approach to physician recruitment and HR planning.

On August 17, I met with Hon. Steve Kent, Minister of Health and Community Services, to present the feedback we received from members. The Minister was very engaged and interested in acting on many of the ideas we presented. He also agreed with our suggestion to establish a committee to move these ideas into action.

Thank you to all members who took the time to send in suggestions. Your input is greatly appreciated and vital to ensuring that we have a united voice in health policy decisions. I ask that you please continue to share your ideas with the Association as we proceed to advance our priorities with government. We look forward to involving many of you in the deliberations that occur based on the work of the committee.

Regards,



Jonathan Greenland, MD, FRCPC
President



**Newfoundland &
Labrador Medical
Association**
164 MacDonald Dr.
St. John's, NL
A1A 4B3
(709) 726-7424
Or 1-800-563-2003
Fax: (709) 726-7525
www.nlma.nl.ca
president@nlma.nl.ca