

President's Letter

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President

NLMA introduces new membership renewal procedures to satisfy requirements of *Medical Act*

Highlights:

- **NLMA has revised its membership renewal process to ensure members are not exposed to risks associated with not meeting licensure requirements of the *Medical Act*. Changes include:**
 - **Membership renewal invoices will be distributed earlier to ensure ample time to renew by the February 15 deadline;**
 - **A \$250 late fee will be applied to members with a full or provisional license who miss the NLMA deadline;**
 - **Any member who misses the deadline will have their NLMA benefits suspended;**
 - **NLMA will notify the CPSNL when members do not renew their membership by the deadline.**

Dear Colleagues:

We acknowledge that the majority of members renew their NLMA membership on time, which is greatly appreciated. There is, however, a proportion of the membership who only pay their fees after the renewal deadline. In recent discussions with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador (CPSNL), it was clarified that members with a full or provisional license who do not renew their NLMA membership by the February 15 deadline do not meet the licensure requirements of the *Medical Act*.

Section 24(3), License to Practice, of the *Medical Act, 2011*, states that:

It is a condition of the issuing of a license under this section that the person to whom the license is issued shall within one month of the date of issuing become a member of the association, and the failure of that person to comply with this condition makes the license void from that date.

To ensure members are not found to be in a situation of not satisfying all conditions of licensure, we are introducing some changes to our membership renewal process as follows:

This year, membership renewal forms will be distributed in December rather than January to ensure members have ample time to renew. Members who hold a full or provisional license with the CPSNL who do not meet the February 15 deadline will incur a one-time \$250 late fee. Any member who does not renew by the deadline will have their NLMA membership suspended, rendering them ineligible for benefits of the NLMA. We are also obligated to notify our partners (e.g. Canadian Medical Association, MD Financial Management, OMA Insurance, TD Insurance, etc.), which may affect the benefits you receive. It is the NLMA's responsibility to notify the CPSNL if a full or provisionally licensed member does not renew their NLMA membership by the February 15 deadline.

These revisions to the NLMA's membership renewal process have been made to incentivize membership renewal by the deadline to avoid risks associated with invalid licensure. **Please note, there is no increase in membership fees for 2017.**

Look for your NLMA membership renewal invoice soon by email or postal mail depending on your preference. You can also renew your membership online now at www.nlma.nl.ca/nlma/membership.

Your membership with the NLMA grants the Association the privilege of representing the political, clinical and economic interests of the province's medical profession and ensures a strong, united voice for all physicians in the province.

Sincerely,

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President

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