

# President's Letter

December 21, 2017



Lynn Dwyer, MD  
President

## NLMA receives notice to commence negotiations

Dear Colleagues,

Following the signing of the NLMA Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), the NLMA received official notice from the Department of Finance to commence negotiations for a new agreement.

We expect the first meeting with government officials will occur in mid-January. The meeting will focus on scheduling issues only. No positions will be tabled.

I spoke with many of you during my President's Tour in the fall and we have inventoried the suggestions put forward by members related to negotiations. Additional consultation with members and substantive research is required before the Board arrives at a negotiating mandate. We will take the time necessary to develop a balanced package based on strong evidence and your input. In particular, we will be reaching out to all section heads and groups in early 2018.

We recognize that the province is fiscally restrained, and doctors will do their part to ensure we are spending our health care dollars responsibly. In times like this, it is equally important to remain strong to ensure that our province is sufficiently competitive to recruit and retain the medical workforce required to provide our patients with reliable and quality care.

NLMA and government realize that much work is needed on implementation of last MOA before we negotiate the next one. We will start the New Year by focusing on resolving the binding arbitration mechanism, finalizing micro-allocations, and dealing with other commitments in our current MOA. Please stay tuned for an update in the months ahead.

I wish you all a joyful holiday season and Happy New Year and look forward to working with you in 2018 as we advance these priorities.

Sincerely,



Lynn Dwyer, MD  
President



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