

# President's Letter

March 6, 2019



Tracey Bridger  
MD, FRCP(C)  
President

## Update on NLMA Academic Physicians Section

Dear Colleagues:

I wish to update you about NLMA activities to represent our members who hold academic and teaching positions with Memorial University throughout the province.

### 1. Efforts to Start Negotiations with Memorial University

On February 12, 2018 there was an open meeting of the NLMA Academic Physicians Section at NLMA House. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss Memorial University's response to the NLMA letter seeking the start of a negotiations process with respect to GFT, stipended and non-stipended academic physicians. In its response, Memorial declined to negotiate with the NLMA and stated that it will continue with the current GFT compensation framework, subject to review and consideration at a future date.

The discussion at the open meeting centred on the various models of medical association representation for academic physicians across Canada. The presentation slides are available on the [NLMA website](#). Meeting attendees also discussed options for the NLMA and the Academic Physicians Section to respond to Memorial's position. If you were unable to attend the open meeting, you can still provide your feedback by email to [nlma@nlma.nl.ca](mailto:nlma@nlma.nl.ca) or through this [anonymous feedback form](#). Planning is underway to hold a series of smaller meetings with groups of members to share information, gather your views, and better understand your issues. Details will be announced soon.

The next step will be a meeting between the NLMA President and the Dean of Medicine. This meeting is scheduled later in March. We are also continuing work on the establishment of the Academic Physicians Section of the NLMA, as described below.

### 2. Member Feedback Sought on Academic Physicians Section Rules of Procedure

A draft of the Section "rules of procedure" is available [here](#) for your review and feedback, before a vote for their formal adoption. These rules have been developed with the guidance of the interim executive committee. Please send feedback on the rules of procedure to [aletto@nlma.nl.ca](mailto:aletto@nlma.nl.ca) by **Wednesday, March 13, 2019**.

### 3. Call for Nominations to Serve on Executive Committee

In the coming weeks, there will also be a call for nominations, and an election, to establish a formal executive committee that will oversee governance of the Section. Please watch for the notice. I encourage everyone to consider offering themselves to serve on this Committee. I would remind people that the Executive Committee oversees the activities within the Academic Section of the NLMA. If bargaining with Memorial were to take place in the future, a separate set of committees will be established with linkages back to the Executive Committee. Thank you to the interim executive committee for their work and support of the Section to date.

Sincerely,

Tracey Bridger, M.D., FRCP(C)  
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](http://www.nlma.nl.ca)  
[president@nlma.nl.ca](mailto:president@nlma.nl.ca)