



**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

NLMA discusses issues facing Emergency Medicine

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St. John's, NL – Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association President Dr. Brendan Lewis today launched the NLMA's second public information session, this time to discuss the challenges in providing Emergency Medicine throughout the province.

"Emergency Departments are intended to provide rapid diagnosis and treatment for medical emergencies, such as life-threatening injuries and critical illnesses. They operate 24-hours a day, 365 days a year and are places where patients turn to when they are in their most dire time of need and most vulnerable," says Dr. Lewis.

Dr. Lewis explained that overcrowding and long wait times in the province's Emergency Departments are causing significant patient safety and quality of care concerns for physicians. Included in its proposals to government, the NLMA requested a review of the province's Category A and Category B system, including how the services are resourced and organized. To date, the NLMA has not received an adequate response from government.

"Physicians working in Emergency Departments often have to make rapid decisions in intense environments. In order to ensure that patient safety is not jeopardized, ERs must be properly staffed and have the proper resources to meet patients' immediate needs. We must also find more appropriate and adequate alternatives for patients who do not necessarily have life-threatening issues, but simply have nowhere else to go," Dr. Lewis added.

The public information session was led by Emergency Room physicians Dr. Scott Wilson, Dr. Shawn Tiller and Dr. Tom Costello.

Dr. Scott Wilson is Clinical Chief of Adult Emergency Medicine at Eastern Health. He is a graduate of Memorial University and has been practicing emergency medicine for the past 20 years.

Dr. Shawn Tiller is a Family Medicine graduate of Memorial University. He currently works at the James Paton Memorial Hospital in Gander and has had a blended practice of Family Medicine and Emergency Medicine since 1997.

Dr. Thomas Costello is a Family Medicine graduate of Memorial University and has been practicing in the province since 1981. He provides Emergency Medicine coverage at the Captain William Jackman Memorial Hospital in Labrador City and he operates a family medicine practice at the Wabush Medical Clinic. Dr. Costello is a past-president of the NLMA and the Newfoundland chapter of the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

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