



For Immediate Release
March 6, 2015

NLMA, ARNNL, PANL and NLCFPC announce shared support for primary health care renewal

St. John's, NL - At today's pre-budget consultations, the Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador (ARNNL), the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association (NLMA), the Pharmacists' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (PANL) and the Newfoundland and Labrador Chapter of the College of Family Physicians of Canada (NLCFPC) expressed their shared support for innovative strategies that promote primary health care renewal in the province.

The NLMA, ARNNL, PANL and the NLCFPC are all members of the province's newly formed Primary Health Care Advisory Committee. The Department of Health and Community Services established this committee to recommend a framework for primary health care renewal in Newfoundland and Labrador. The NLMA, ARNNL, PANL and NLCFPC look forward to working as part of this committee to review the ideas raised at the Premier's Health Care Summit in January.

“There is a growing body of evidence which shows that a reformed primary health care system that is focused on keeping people healthy in the community and out of hospitals leads to cost avoidance over time. As the province embarks on its five-year plan to return to a budget surplus, we believe a medium and long-term strategy is needed – one that invests in primary care renewal now in order to ensure enduring financial sustainability.”

– Robert Thompson, Executive Director, Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association

“To ensure sustainable spending and to establish a more efficient health care system, we need a primary health care framework that not only builds the capacity of individuals and communities, but engages health providers and Government to all work together to maximize positive outcomes. Improving care and access is more about how care is delivered, not how much.”

– Lynn Power, RN, MN, Executive Director, Association of Registered Nurses Newfoundland and Labrador

“Investing in primary health care models as one of the solutions towards sustaining a viable, patient-focused health care system needs to be a key priority for our province. Several provincial governments across Canada continue to demonstrate primary care strategies that leverage the experience and knowledge of all health care practitioners improves accessibility, patient outcomes and financial responsibility.”

– Stephen Reid, Executive Director, Pharmacists' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador

“The CFPC has a vision for family medicine called The Patients Medical Home. Its pillars parallel the principles of primary care. We believe in a system that provides a family doctor and a health care team with timely access for all. We recognize that the medical system as it exists is not sustainable. Primary health care reform has been proven to improve health outcomes, decrease ER visits and hospital stays. The time for change is now for the health of our province.”

– Dr. Jacqueline Elliott, President, Newfoundland and Labrador College of Family Physicians

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