



**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

NLMA releases recommendations for achieving health system sustainability

For immediate release – March 24, 2016

St. John's, NL – NLMA President Dr. Jonathan Greenland today outlined the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association's recommendations for achieving efficiencies in the health budget.

In February, the NLMA unveiled its plan to consult with physicians and patients on building a safe and sustainable health care system for the future. The Association initiated this process in response to the provincial government's multi-year renewal initiative to find savings in the provincial budget.

Input received during the NLMA's consultations, was used to develop recommendations and action plans in the areas of utilization management; role delineation of facilities; the expanded use of technology; end of life care; coordination of services; and, accountability.

"The overarching theme that came from doctors is that cutting costs does not mean cutting the quality of care. Doctors believe that through careful planning, we can reduce the volume of unnecessary or inappropriate tests and procedures, redesign the services offered in our public facilities, and bring doctors closer to their patients through the use of technology." said NLMA President Dr. Jonathan Greenland.

Dr. Greenland explained that although the provincial government is seeking immediate and significant cost reductions, physicians believe that any potential reductions in health care must occur within a framework that also seeks to ensure safety and enhance quality.

"Making cuts without a coherent plan will not protect the quality of our health system. Nor will it address the systemic problems that led to the inefficiencies in the first place," said Dr. Greenland.

"We indicated to government that physicians are ready and willing to be partners in this process to ensure that health care decisions are made in the best interest of our patients and support the sustainability of the health care system for future generations.

The NLMA's consultation included an online survey of its members and physician town halls in each region of the province, as well as a survey of patients and patient focus groups.

Attachment:

[NLMA Recommendations Letter to Hon. Dr. John Haggie and Hon. Cathy Bennett](#) (pdf)

- 30 -

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