

---

# President's Letter

September 27, 2011

## MOA Implementation Update

### *1<sup>st</sup> stage of President's Tour set for October 16-20*



**Sandra Luscombe, MD**  
**President**

Dear Colleagues:

In the coming weeks, I will be launching my President's Tour. I am looking forward to talking to you about a range of issues, including future priorities for the Association, as well as providing you with details on the implementation of our *Memorandum of Agreement* (MOA) with the province. In anticipation of those discussions, I want to share with you a brief synopsis of our progress in key areas.

#### **Preamble review**

The Association will be launching a comprehensive review of the MCP preamble. A task force will be established with broad representation from the fee-for-service (FFS) specialty groups, including family medicine. We also intend to ensure that the task force provides a good balance between rural and urban physicians.

In addition to the work of the task force, the Association will be asking all affected members to communicate their most critical concerns about the preamble and the best ways to deal with them. Details will be forthcoming in a future President's Letter as the process unfolds.

#### **Microallocations**

Although the microallocation process has not proceeded as quickly as we would have liked, we are starting to see some results. All FFS groups have been asked to submit their microallocation proposals by September 30 in preparation for discussion with government. Meetings to begin discussions on fee code allocations for family medicine, urology and psychiatry have already been held. A meeting is scheduled for later this week on obstetrics-gynecology. We will continue to meet with government as proposals are received. Until the microallocation process is complete and a new FFS schedule is published, quarterly across-the-board payments will remain in place.

#### **On-call review**

Government has agreed to the NLMA proposal to recruit outside expert consultants to assist in an in-depth review of the on-call program. A draft request for proposals (RFP) has been completed and agreed to by government. We intend to issue the RFP very soon. A steering committee will be established to oversee the review. In addition, we will be consulting extensively with members to ensure that our review is thorough and will serve us well into the future.

As is indicated in the MOA, increases to the on-call budget will not be allocated until the review is completed. Pending completion, the Association will ensure that any unallocated funding will be preserved for the purpose of call.

#### **Rural FFS retention bonus**

Government has informed the Association that an information package, including an application, on the rural FFS retention bonus will be distributed to members who may be eligible in early October.



**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  
or 726-7456  
[www.nlma.nl.ca](http://www.nlma.nl.ca)  
[president@nlma.nl.ca](mailto:president@nlma.nl.ca)

.../2

---

**MOA Implementation Update: 1<sup>st</sup> stage of President's Tour set of October 16-20**

September 27, 2011

Page 2 of 2

---

**Clinical stabilization**

Currently, just under half of the \$2.9 million allocated to the clinical stabilization fund has been committed. Allocations have been made from the fund to correct disparities in FFS psychiatry, stabilize the hyperbaric medicine program, realign some ophthalmology comparison concerns, and provide funding for retention bonuses for rural physicians working under alternate payment plans (APPs).

The approximately \$1.5 million remaining in the fund will be used to initiate a program to cover lost opportunity costs and to begin addressing some of the concerns that we anticipate will arise in the course of the preamble review.

**Medical Act**

A tripartite meeting of the NLMA, CMPA and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador was held on September 21 to discuss the translation of the new *Medical Act* into regulations. A detailed agenda, prepared by CMPA, focused on ensuring fair and effective criteria that will guide physician self-regulation in the province. The three parties agreed to continue to stay in touch as the regulations are developed. In addition, the Association exchanged correspondence with Health Minister Jerome Kennedy, in which he welcomed NLMA input in the exercise.

**President's Tour**

The first stage of my President's Tour will be held October 16-20 with stops in St. Anthony, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Corner Brook, Stephenville and Port aux Basques. Details on each of these meetings will be provided to members locally. Dates and locations for the second phase of the Tour will be distributed in an upcoming communication.

In addition to providing more details on the MOA implementation and discussing issues of immediate concern, we also hope to use the Tour to explore future priorities for the Association. I will be asking you to contemplate issues you feel are of long-term importance to you. To assist in this discussion, I will be sending you more specific information about what we are looking for from you in advance of our meetings.

I look forward to meeting and hearing from as many of you as possible in the course of my President's Tour.

Best regards,



Sandra Luscombe, MD  
President