

# President's Letter

October 27, 2020



Lynette Powell, MD  
President

## Reflecting on 2020 NLMA President's Tour

Dear colleagues,

I have recently completed the 2020 NLMA President's Tour and I would like to personally thank everyone who was able to join us as we held 14 virtual meetings across all regions of the province.

While unfortunately we were not able to hold the meetings in person, as has been the past practice, I still took tremendous value from the open and honest conversations we had.

One message that stood out clearly to me and was echoed in nearly every meeting is that it is a trying time for physicians in Newfoundland and Labrador. On top of the challenges we all face due to the global pandemic, which our members have shown incredible resilience and dedication, physicians are bearing the burden of uncertainty, stress, being overworked and delivering services in an environment where the value and respect for our skills is deteriorating.

The discussions we had were impassioned and in each region and community similar themes emerged – recruitment and retention continues to be a critical concern in many regions across several disciplines, we need a focused effort on creating a dependable and available locum pool, physician shortages permeate rural communities, the support for family medicine has continued to erode and burnout and stress is at an all-time high.

We did also touch on some of the positives and wins that we have seen including the continued growth of the EMR program and the quick adoption and implementation of virtual care and its continued need into the future. However, these are but small steps in a much larger journey.

With the anticipated start of negotiations upon us in November, as committed to by Premier Furey, the NLMA has been given a clear mandate on the issues and opportunities that need to lead and focus these discussions.

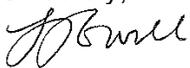
I would like to again take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in the President's Tour, and if you never had an opportunity to share your thoughts you are always welcome to reach out to me or a member of the NLMA team.

Also, special thanks to the NLMA staff for facilitating and making the President's Tour happen. Due to the virtual nature of the tour this year, we were able to have more NLMA staff present at the meetings to hear your concerns and feedback.

You are also invited to [evaluate the NLMA President's Tour](#), even if you did not attend. It takes less than a minute and if you include your name, you will be entered to win a \$100 Apple Gift Card.

I look forward to standing with you, shoulder to shoulder, advocating for a better health care system that invests properly in physicians to ensure the best possible health outcomes for our patients.

Sincerely,



Lynette Powell, MD  
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)