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# President's Letter

October 16, 2015



**Jonathan Greenland**  
MD, FRCPC  
President

## NLMA Members Ratify Agreement

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to report that an overwhelming majority of voters in the NLMA ratification vote have accepted the proposed agreement with the Provincial Government. When the vote closed on October 15, 94% voted in favour of the agreement. Members clearly support our vision for a strong and sustainable health care system.

The new agreement adds a 4.6% increase to the Physician Services Budget. Highlights of the agreement include:

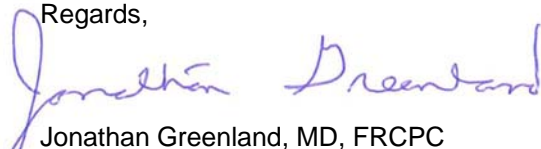
- \$15.4 million for compensation increases to be distributed according to an equal dollar amount per full time equivalent physician;
- \$4.5 million to support primary health care renewal initiatives;
- a mutually agreed terms of reference for the future use of binding arbitration; and,
- a commitment to fund a parental leave benefits program through a permanent allocation from the Clinical Stabilization Fund.

This agreement is good for physicians and, more importantly, the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. It addresses our need to maintain competitiveness and supports our vision for a better primary health care system. The strong show of support for the agreement also sends a clear message that we are united as an Association.

We intend to continue this momentum as we turn our attention to implementing the advances we achieved in the agreement. We will look to members for guidance as we initiate the micro-allocation process, the MCP payment schedule review, the rural FFS GP retention bonus review and a framework for primary health care renewal. Our next step will be to finalize the legal text of our Memorandum of Agreement.

This is indeed an exciting time for medicine in the province. I look forward to working with you over the coming year to move these initiatives forward.

Regards,



Jonathan Greenland, MD, FRCPC  
President



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