

# President's Letter

June 7, 2021



**Susan MacDonald  
MD, CCFP PC FCFP  
President**

Greetings,

We had an excellent turn out for our annual AGM. Thank you to all who participated.

We have a challenging year ahead of us. My first goal as President will be concluding negotiations as quickly as possible. Talks resumed last month, and discussions are well underway.

These negotiations are occurring at a critical time. Our health system needs fundamental reforms. I will hold government accountable, on your behalf, for taking on these reforms and shaping a better future.

At the same time, we are not tone-deaf to the challenges facing the province. We are being realistic in our expectations and focusing our energies on areas we feel have the most benefit for our patients. All areas of government spending are now under the microscope and health care is no exception.

We must ensure that any decisions to reduce health care costs are based on appropriate evidence and result in sustainable solutions to make our health care system stronger and more efficient. The NLMA will not support any solution that results in substandard care or puts our patients in a potentially compromised situation.

Reform in the health care system brings with it a tremendous opportunity to make the kinds of changes that NLMA has been calling for over the past five years.

The NLMA remains committed to our patients. We will continue to call for progressive change that leads to better care and better value for our health care dollars.

I strongly believe that when we keep the patient as our main priority, we can pioneer sustainable solutions that suit both our patients' needs and our own.

While we come from many different backgrounds and disciplines, we are a small group of physicians. During controversial periods such as we are experiencing now, it is important more than ever that we stand united in solidarity. We cannot let ourselves be divided and conquered.

In my year as President, I look forward to engaging and working with my colleagues throughout the province, starting with the upcoming President's Tour.

At this point, I would like to say a special thank you to our outgoing President Dr. Lynnette Powell. It has been a tough and demanding year, and Dr. Powell has risen to the challenge with grace, resolve and commitment. Dr. Powell has been an outstanding leader and she deserves a special thanks for her devoted service to our Association.

I would also like to say a special thank you to our outgoing Board members Past President Dr. Charlene Fitzgerald, Dr. Paul Johnston and Dr. Lauren Smithson.

Thank you as well to our current Board and committee members for their efforts and commitment to improving the profession in what has been a very busy year.

I look forward to working more closely with you all and the entire staff of the NLMA.

Sincerely,



**Susan MacDonald, MD, CCFP PC FCFP  
President**



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