

May 12, 2022

Mr. Robert Thompson  
Executive Director  
Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association  
164 MacDonald Drive  
St. John's, NL A1A 4B3  
[rthompson@nlma.nl.ca](mailto:rthompson@nlma.nl.ca)

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Re: Gender Affirming Primary Care Training

One of the recommendations under **Towards Recovery: The Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan for Newfoundland and Labrador** calls for specialized training for physicians who work with 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals. Increased training and awareness of the health needs of individuals within this community, and the barriers they currently face in accessing care, is vital to ensuring all people have safe and equitable health care in our province.

The Department of Health and Community Services is pleased to introduce several initiatives to promote a better understanding of gender and sexual identity, particularly for professionals in our health care system. This includes new online training programs and updated information and resources on [Bridgethegapp.ca](http://Bridgethegapp.ca). In addition to these efforts, we are also inviting physicians to take part in an online course called **Gender Affirming Primary Care** offered in partnership with Trans Care BC.

**Gender Affirming Primary Care** is a free, 60-90-minute, online, self-directed medical education course designed for primary care providers. It gives providers knowledge and skills to implement a gender-affirming framework in their current practice. By the end of the course, providers are able to:

- Effectively utilize common terminology when discussing gender with individuals;
- Identify common health disparities/challenges faced by transgender individuals and implications for their care;
- Define the gender-affirming framework and how it applies to provision of primary care;
- Take an effective medical history using appropriate language;
- Understand the role of the primary care provider in the care of transgender individuals.

**Gender Affirming Primary Care** is certified by Main Pro (1.5), and participants can register using the following link: [Gender-Affirming Primary Care | Course | UBC CPD](#)

On behalf of the Department of Health and Community Services, I offer sincere gratitude to you and your members for helping keep Newfoundlanders and Labradorians safe and healthy during the past two years. Thank you for your support and ongoing commitment to improving the health and well-being of all people in our province.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Niki Legge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**NIKI LEGGE, RSW, MSW,**  
Provincial Director  
Mental Health and Addictions

cc: Gillian Sweeney, Assistant Deputy Minister, Population Health  
Monica Bull, Senior Program Manager, Primary Health Care