

President's Letter

July 21, 2023



Gerard Farrell, MD

Negotiations Survey Summary

Dear Colleagues:

On April 18, the NLMA asked members to complete a survey to determine themes and objectives to guide our upcoming negotiations with the provincial government for the renewal of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). The last MOA was signed in May 2022 and the term of that agreement expires on September 30, 2023.

The NLMA would like to extend a sincere thank you to all members who took the time to complete the survey, and to the many physicians who sent in ideas and issues separately. Your feedback is essential as it is compiled and presented to the Board of Directors for consideration in the NLMA's negotiating strategy. We greatly appreciate and value the input you provided.

The two most frequently identified negotiation themes in the survey were ***incentivizing recruitment and retention*** and ***competitiveness of compensation with other jurisdictions*** followed by ***reducing administrative burden, improving patient access and wait times***, and ***improving work/life balance***. The two most frequently identified overall priorities were ***retirement savings for FFS physicians*** and an ***improved compensation model for family medicine/ER in rural/remote sites***, followed by an ***improved role for consultants within the new health authority*** and ***locum recruitment***.

The NLMA notified the government on June 1, 2023, that the Association is ready to commence negotiations. An early start to negotiations will ensure adequate time to prepare, negotiate, and sign a new agreement without undue delay. The NLMA had its kickoff meeting with the provincial government on June 23, dealing with procedural matters. The Board of Directors will meet over the summer to finalize the NLMA's bargaining position ahead of our substantive meetings with government, which are expected to begin in the fall.

If you have any questions or other feedback, you can write to me at president@nlma.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gerard Farrell".

Gerard Farrell
President

The logo for the Newfoundland & Labrador Medical Association, featuring a stylized, cursive "NLMA" in black.

**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
president@nlma.nl.ca