

President's Letter

August 26, 2025



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Update on the Status of the MOA Signing

Dear Colleagues,

I'm writing today to provide an update on the status of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the NLMA and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

As most of you know, a tentative agreement was reached in March and ratified by more than 80 per cent of members in early April. In June, we communicated that both parties were making progress toward signing and had set a target of completing the signing by the end of summer. Since that time, we have been meeting regularly with the government on drafting the legal contract and working diligently to complete cost calculations.

With the end of summer deadline fast approaching and a provincial election on the horizon, we are receiving a growing number of inquiries about the status of the MOA. Understandably, many members are concerned that if the MOA is not signed before the provincial election is called and the writ is dropped – the timeline for signing could easily be pushed into the winter.

While a few final items remain to be completed this week, we are on track to be ready for signing in the coming days – potentially as early as the end of this week.

The final outstanding issue is the Category B Contract Payment Model. During the ratification member consultations in March, concerns were raised by physicians who indicated that the proposed model could result in significant income loss at certain Category B sites. While the model works well for most sites, a few are uniquely vulnerable.

In response, the parties agreed that NLMA would engage directly with affected physicians over the late spring and early summer, which culminated in a report to the Department of Health in mid-July outlining recommendations to adjust the model for successful implementation while staying within the mediated funding envelope. We understand the Department of Health forwarded the proposal to Treasury Board for evaluation in early August.

Yesterday, the NLMA received word that a meeting planned for today with the Minister of Health was being rescheduled to September 2nd. Given the urgency of finalizing the signing of the MOA, I wrote to the Minister of Health this morning seeking an expected timeline on when we can expect a response to our Category B implementation recommendations.

If a decision on Category B is not expected by the time the remainder of the MOA is finalized in the coming days, then we proposed proceeding with the signing of the MOA, while continuing discussions on Category B post-signing.

This approach would involve including a placeholder clause in the MOA and agreeing on a defined timeline for finalizing the Category B model. This approach already has precedent – in the last round of negotiations, the parties signed the MOA while continuing to finalize the Blended Capitation schedule within six months post-signing.

We will continue to keep you informed as developments unfold and will advise you immediately once the MOA is signed.

Respectfully,



Cynthia Slade
President



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