



September 16, 2025

Mr. Tony Wakeham
Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of NL
info@pcnl.ca

Subject: Future of Health Care: NLMA Seeks Your Party's Commitments

Dear Mr. Tony Wakeham,

The Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association (NLMA) is collecting responses from political party leaders about their party's position on issues that remain priorities for physicians.

The NLMA is focusing on a set of priorities that reflect the evolving needs of our health care system and the medical workforce. We are asking each of the province's political parties to advise where they stand on the following themes:

- Protecting the Janeway Children's Health and Rehabilitation Centre
- Upholding national compensation standards to attract and retain physicians
- Improving the work environment within NL Health Services
- Overhead Funding Support for All Physicians who Provide MCP-Insured Services in the Community
- Commit to Universal Access to Family Physicians

We are inviting each leadership candidate to respond to the NLMA's request for your position on the topics outlined in the attached public letter.

Your responses will be published on our social media channels, shared with the media and distributed to our members to help them understand where each party stands on matters that affect physicians and patients across the province.

We ask that your party respond to the attached questions by October 1, 2025.

Thank you for taking the time to share your party's position on these important matters.

Sincerely,

C. Slade
Dr. Cynthia Slade MD, FRCPC
President

HEALTH CARE MESSAGE TO ALL PARTY LEADERS

The people of Newfoundland and Labrador deserve a health care system that is modern, equitable, and responsive to the needs of its medical workforce and patients.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association (NLMA) asks on behalf of the province's physicians and their patients, that all political party leadership candidates respond to the NLMA's call for commitments on the following priorities:

- **Protecting the Janeway Children's Health and Rehabilitation Centre**

The Janeway must remain a dedicated pediatric hospital. We ask for a clear commitment that adult services will not encroach upon the Janeway, preserving its specialized focus on children's health and rehabilitation.

- **Upholding National Standards to Attract and Retain Physicians**

Newfoundland and Labrador must remain a competitive destination for physicians. The current physician services contract ensures national competitiveness. This is essential to attract and retain the skilled physicians our communities need, and to ensure that Newfoundland and Labrador does not fall behind other provinces. We ask all parties to commit to upholding this benchmark to ensure that Newfoundland and Labrador remains a competitive jurisdiction for physician recruitment and retention. This also requires a comprehensive and publicly transparent health human resource (HHR) plan that outlines current workforce needs, future projections, recruitment and retention goals, and training pathways. Such a plan must be data-driven, responsive to regional and specialty-specific gaps, and must accurately reflect the true number of physicians working full-time in the province, and not just reflect head count alone.

- **Improving the Work Environment Within NL Health Services**

Since the transition to a single health authority, physicians have raised serious concerns about their work environment. There is a pressing need to restore morale, ensure respectful engagement, and protect physicians from retaliation when raising legitimate issues. We call on all parties to commit to a renewed dedication to transparency, collaboration, and physician leadership, which are essential to improving patient care and retaining skilled professionals.

- **Overhead Funding Support for All Physicians Who Provide MCP-Insured Services in the Community**

Unlike other independent health care professionals in the community, physicians cannot adjust their fees to reflect rising overhead costs, as their compensation is determined by MCP. These physicians deliver publicly funded health care through their privately owned clinics, which they themselves finance and manage to ensure patients have access to care in their communities. In doing so, they are effectively subsidizing the public health care system by covering infrastructure and operational costs that government would otherwise have to fund. With government now providing overhead support to independent nurse practitioners, we call for equitable support for physicians who provide MCP-insured services in the community.

- **Commit to Universal Access to Family Physicians**

Every person in Newfoundland and Labrador who wants access to a family physician deserves to have one. We call on all political candidates to commit to striving toward a health care system where every citizen can be connected to a family doctor, ensuring continuity of care and better health outcomes across the province.

NOW is the time to make these commitments to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.



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MEDICAL ASSOCIATION