



Dr. Cynthia Slade
President
Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association

Dear Cynthia,

I am writing in response to your letter of September 16th, in which your organization asked specific questions of Party Leaders about health care in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Our Liberal government values its collaborative working relationship with the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association and looks forward to continuing to work together.

Your first question is about the Janeway Children's Health and Rehabilitation Centre, and the NLMA's desire that it remains a dedicated pediatric hospital.

Our government is committed to preserving the specialized services at the Janeway. The care provided to our province's children hospital is deeply valued, and our government would not take any action that would take away from the Janeway Hospital's specialized focus on children's health and rehabilitation.

Your second question asks that National Compensation standards be upheld to attract and retain physicians, by ensuring competitive compensation aligned with national benchmarks.

Just last month, our Liberal Government was pleased to announce the signing of a memorandum of agreement with the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association.

The agreement, which includes compensation increases that bring all disciplines to competitive levels, strengthens physician recruitment and retention efforts. Other highlights of the agreement include increased compensation for some emergency departments, including after-hours premiums and a new payment model to increase access to community primary care.

A re-elected Liberal Government intends to continue working closely with the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association to increase access to care and improve health outcomes in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Your next question focuses on improving the working environment and morale within Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services.

Everyone has a right to a safe and healthy workplace, one where employees feel respected and heard. Ensuring a supportive and safe working environment for physicians, and all our health care professionals, is a priority for our government.



A re-elected Liberal Government will establish an Independent Health Sector Safety Council to provide oversight to protect health care workers and patients. We will work with NLHS and our key stakeholders, such as the NLMA, to foster a positive work environment at all Newfoundland and Labrador health care facilities.

Your next question outlines the NLMA's call for all physicians providing MCP-insured services in the community to have access to adequate overhead funding.

We recognize that rising costs are impacting every aspect of our lives today. Our Liberal government is committed to reviewing the funding model for family physicians.

Your final question deals with universal access to family physicians. Every Newfoundlander and Labradorian deserves access to primary health care.

Health Care represents the single biggest investment in our province at nearly \$4.5 billion in Budget 2025.

\$35 Million is earmarked to hire additional health care providers for family care teams and to create new teams to connect everyone in the province with primary health care.

Currently there are more than 110,000 people connected to a family care team, and we are committed to increasing that number to 155,000 by the end of next year.

We offer one of the most attractive incentive packages in the country, including the Family Practice Programs which aims to attract and retain new family physicians by providing funding to help alleviate the financial burden associated with opening or joining a fee-for-service family practice in the province.

Our recruitment and retention efforts are paying off. We have reduced vacancies across health care disciplines, including the hiring of more than 160 new doctors in the last two years.

A re-elected Liberal government will establish a dedicated crown corporation tasked with health professional recruitment, retention, and workforce planning.

This organization will work directly with NLHS, provincial and federal government departments, and other stakeholders to address vacancies across all health care disciplines.

Thank you for reaching out and for the vital work you and your members do each and every day to care for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.



We look forward to building on our valued working relationship with the NLMA.

Thank you.

John Hogan, Leader
Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador