

**Minutes**

**Annual Members Meeting**

**NL College of Family Physicians**

**Thursday, November 19, 2020 – Virtual**

**Present:**

**NL College of Family Physicians Board of Directors**

Dr. Sonny Collis Dr. Chris Patey Dr. Shelley Sullivan

President Honorary Treasurer Honorary Secretary

Dr. Carmen Grinton Dr. Megan Hayes Dr. Nicole Stockley

Resident Rep-MUN Member at Large Past-President

Dr. Elhamy Samak Dr. Parinita Verma Mr. Iqshvaku Mishra

Member at Large Resident Rep-MUN Med Student Rep-MUN

Dr. Danielle O’Keefe Dr. Kayla Viquers

FM Representative Med Student Rep-MUN

**Missing from the Board:** Dr. Dave Thomas ( Director of External Engagement), Dr. Danielle Phillips (Member at Large)

**Webinar Hosts:**

Ms. Debbie Rideout, NL CFP Administrator

Ms. Lissa Manganaro, National CCFP

Ms. Heather Mullen, National CCFP / Atlantic Policy Analysis

Dr. Francine LeMire Dr. Catherine Cervin

Dr. Amanda Tzenov Dr. David Blecher

Dr. Norah Duggan Dr. Jacqueline Elliott

Dr. Charlene Fitzgerald Dr. Janice Fitzgerald

Dr. Meghan Greene Dr. Rebecca Mawhinney

Dr. Nicola Penney Dr. Lynette Power

Dr. Samuel Ralph Dr. Hans Schaefer

Dr. Paula Slaney Dr. Pam Snow

Dr. Brent Thistle Dr. Amy Pieroway

Ms. Sarah Scott

Our apologies for anyone we have missed.

Virtual Housekeeping Points – Dr. Nicole Stockley

1. **Meeting Called to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Sonny Collis, President. Dr. Collis read the Acknowledgement of Our Land.

1. **Introduction of Executive Committee and Guests**

Dr. Collis welcomed all members, out of province guests, and past presidents of the NL College of Family Physicians. Debbie confirmed there was quorum to continue with our AMM.

1. **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

The only conflict of interest declared was by Dr. Nicole Stockley.   
“The role of Director of External Engagement is funded by the NL College of Family Physicians”.

1. **Appointment of Resolutions Committee:**

Dr. Chris Patey available to accept resolutions throughout meeting through email.

1. **Acceptance of Agenda**

The motion to accept the agenda with no amendments by Dr. Elhamy Samak, seconded by Dr. Megan Hayes.

**MOTION CARRED**

1. **Approval of Minutes - AMM October 2019**

The motion to accept minutes as is by Dr. Nicole Stockley, seconded by Dr. Megan Hayes.

**MOTION CARRIED**

1. **Annual Report of President -** Dr. Sonny Collis

Dr. Collis provided an overview of the past 12 months.

Due to COVID, the President’s report looks very different than previous years. Our Board met face-to-face and had many actions items of things we wanted to do in 2020. Like most, COVID had a huge impact on how we could achieve our goals.

However, there have been many silver linings that have shown new opportunities and shone a light on family medicine in our province. It was amazing to see when COVID hit, how quickly and effectively NL family physicians moved to adapt our delivery of family medicine when information was scarce and often inconsistent. In countless ways we have proved our value in our communities and province.

Virtual care has created opportunities and also many challenges. There has been much work around virtual care, both locally and Nationally. The NL Chapter will continue to advocate for virtual care, especially in the context of the Patient’s Medical Home.

Promotion of family medicine has been a big priority for this current Board, and will continue to be a priority. Our Family Doctor Day was a huge success despite COVID. Our social media campaign reached over 90,000 people, and resulted in many retweets by the Minister of Health and the Premier. We are also working on a new campaign – We Specialize in YOU!, in conjunction with our Atlantic Canada Chapter partners. COVID has created many delays, but we will push forward with our promotion of Family Medicine in NL.

When COVID hit, there was much confusion about the availability of family practice. Once again, we started a social medical campaign spreading the word “Call YOUR Family Doctor – YOUR Doctor is there for YOU!”. We continued our social medical campaign over several months with the message – “We are open and available for your medical needs”.

Our best promoters are our patients. We promote family medicine everyday simply by providing the best care for our patients and our communities.

Despite the pandemic, our major accomplishment is without a doubt our Director of External Engagement position. The position was instrumental to all we have accomplished this year. Our voices and concerns will be heard through our DEE at many tables, including the Health Accord Task Force. Our physicians concerns will be heard. We will continue to expand the reach of the Director of External Engagement to make sure our voices are heard at all the tables.

The NL CFP is better situated than ever to make a better impact on health care in our province. I will now invite Dr. Nicole Stockley, Director of External Engagement to provide us with her report.

1. **Director of External Engagement Report** – Dr. Nicole Stockley

During the 2018 AMM, NL CFP members submitted a resolution requesting that “the NL CFP advocate for representation in the Department of Health for future projects”. That resolution led to the creation of the NL CFP Government Liaison position, which served to build and strengthen the relationship between the NL CFP and the Provincial Government. Following the 2019 AMM, the NL CFP Board expanded the role to include outreach to other stakeholders and partnership organizations. Consequently, the position was renamed the “Director of External Engagement” (DEE).

Starting in January 2020, meetings were held between the DEE and various partner organizations including the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association (NLMA), the Family Practice Renewal Program (FPRP) and Quality of Care NL (QCNL). Relationships were formalized and partnerships developed. The NL CFP was offered a seat on the QCNL Working Group, and immediately started providing input into program operations and communications. Membership on the Family Practice Renewal Committee was also extended to the NL CFP. Letters of Introduction were sent to the Minister and the Deputy Minister of Health. Work began on developing a strategy for provincial recognition of Family Doctor Day, as well as investigating the possibility of legal protection of family medicine terminology.

By the spring, as the public health crisis caused by COVID-19 unfolded, the DEE’s attention shifted to COVID- focused communication with partner organizations and members. Information coordination with careful attention to consistent messaging was given top priority. The DEE was involved in regular update meetings with the NLMA and the FPRP, and offered advice about COVID-related issues directly impacting NL CFP members. A QCNL Virtual Care sub-committee was created, and the NL CFP was asked for its involvement. This provided an opportunity to connect with various other organizations (Regional Health Authorities, NLCHI, eDocs, Department of Health, etc.) and provide input into the impact of virtual care on the services provided by Family Physicians in NL. The DEE also hosted several Virtual Morning Coffee sessions via Zoom, to help connect members and provide information on the NL CFP’s activities. World Family Doctor Day (May 19th) was promoted across the province, with special “thank you’s to the NL CFP members.

While the response to COVID-19 is ongoing, as of the fall, the DEE activities have started to return to “normal”. Regular meetings are ongoing with the previously-mentioned partner organizations, and some new project opportunities are on the horizon. Moving forward, the DEE will focus on engagement with additional organizations, with a special focus on the Government of NL, Memorial University, and the Regional Health Authorities.

Question – Dr. Norah Duggan:

Wondering if there has been any progress or decisions made by Government that family doctors have to pay for their own PPE unlike other hospital based health care providers that get it covered for free?

DEE Response:

We are having ongoing discussions and working closely with the NLMA and the Family Practice Renewal Program regarding this issue. My understanding is there will be information coming out from the NLMA early next week on what can be expected going forward.

Dr. Collis presented a motion to the members.

The Director of External Engagement position has significantly increased the NL College’s ability to partner with other organizations, promote family medicine, and represent members at a variety of tables. Therefore, the Board wishes to extend the Director of External Engagement position for another year. Following that, the Board will determine if the position should become permanent, and if so will present an appropriate policy to the members at the 2021 AMM. Furthermore, the Board has agreed in principle that should the members agree in extending the DEE position, Dr. Nicole Stockley will remain in that role until the 2021 AMM.

Therefore, the Board has prepared the following motion to members -

That the NL College of Family Physician’s Director of External Engagement Position be extended in its present form until the 2021 AMM.

Motion is moved by Dr. Shelley Sullivan, seconded by Dr. Chris Patey.

**MOTION CARRIED**

1. **Annual Report of Treasurer** - Dr. Chris Patey

Dr. Patey presented the financial report that was emailed to membership prior to the AMM.

Floor was opened for questions. No questions.

Motion to the members.

I move that the financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 be approved as presented. Dr. Collis has seconded this motion.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Dr. Patey presented 2020-2021 Budget. No questions.

1. **National CFPC Report – Dr. Francine LeMire, CFPC CEO**

**& Dr. Cathy Cervin, President CFPC**

Dr. Collis welcome Dr. LeMire and Dr. Cervin to our annual members meeting, and invited them to give their report.

Dr. Cervin congratulated the Board on the success of our Director of External of Engagement position. Dr. Cervin invited all members to reach out to the National CFPC with any issues or concerns. A big thank you members for all the work they do for their patients and communities.

Dr. LeMire recognized the adaptability of NL family physicians to meet the needs of the community during COVID. She does realize the extent to which the pandemic has taken its toll on members and on patients served by NL family doctors. CFPC has advocated on your behalf for sustained access to PPE, appropriate renumeration for virtual care, and for attention to be paid to the mental health of all health care workers. On behalf of the College, Dr. LeMire joined Dr. Cervin in thanking the NL family physicians for your engagement in caring for the people of NL during these extortionary times.

Question – Dr. Jacqueline Elliott

Colleagues received and email from the College saying they had to renew their membership and pay $250. It seemed like an odd email. Members wondered if maybe the CFPC membership system had been hacked, or if it was a legitimate request.

CFPC Response

Dr. LeMire said she would need to see the email. But it certainly didn’t sound like something that would be sent. With the new annual billing process there would be different billing amounts. She is not aware of any hacking or cyber breach that would have happened related to what is being described. Dr. Elliott will get a copy of the email and send it to Dr. LeMire for further investigation.

1. **Nominations Committee – Election of Officers** – Dr. Nicole Stockley

As a non-profit professional organization, it is the NL College of Family Physician’s duty to ensure the highest level of governance and stewardship of member interests. Populating committees with appropriate skills and experience is one means to achieve this goal, as is ensuring the committees reflect the diversities of our members. We would like to thank all who submitted expressions of interest to be on the NL Chapter board.

The following members have submitted their expressions of interest and their nominations have been discussed and approved by the nominating committee / NL CFP Board and are presented here for your voting:

**President Elect – Dr. Christopher Patey**

(Moving from Treasurer position)

**Honorary Treasurer – Dr. Shelley Sullivan**

(Having finished her time as Honorary Secretary)

**Honorary Secretary – Dr. Amy Pieroway**

(New board member)

The question was asked three times, if there were any virtual nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor.

The nomination report was moved by Dr. Nicole Stockley and seconded by Dr. Sonny Collis.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**NL CFP Slate of Officers for 2020-2021**

President – Dr. Sonny Collis   
President Elect – Dr. Chris Patey  
Honorary Treasurer – Dr. Shelley Sullivan

Honorary Secretary – Dr. Amy Pieroway  
Member at large – Dr. Megan Hayes   
Member at large – Dr. Elhamy Samak  
Member at large – Dr. Danielle Phillips  
MUN Representative – Dr. Danielle O’Keefe, Chair, Family Medicine

MUN Medical Student Representative – Mr. Iqshvaku (Ish) Mishra & Ms. Kayla Viguers

MUN Resident Representative – Dr. Parinita Verma & Dr. Carmen Grinton

Dr. Collis thanked everyone who volunteered to be part of NL CFP Board.

Dr. Collis thanked Dr. Nicole Stockley for her time on the board for the past four years. Her knowledge, leadership and hard work has helped us raise the profile of family medicine in NL. She will be missed on the Board, but we all look forward to working with her as the Director of External Engagement.

1. **2020 Members Forum**

Dr. Collis invited everyone to join by video and engage in our Member’s Forum and Awards Ceremony.

**Award of Excellence - Dr. Collis**

**The 2020 Award of Excellence goes toall family physicians in Newfoundland and Labrador** as a sign of our gratitude and thanks for everything  that you do, and to recognize the hard work and dedication your provide to your patients on a daily basis and especially during this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. An Award of Excellence printable certificate can be printed from our website, or you can send an email to Debbie at the Chapter Office and she will mail the certificate directly to you. We hope you will proudly display this certificate in your office or clinic to say “Thank You” for your work that is so important. Congratulations!

**2020 Family Physician of the Year – Dr. Collis**

Dr. Collis and Dr. Charlene Fitzgerald presented Dr. Janice Fitzgerald with the **2020 Family Physician of the Year Award**. This included a video.

Dr. Fitzgerald is a distinct member of our organization and she is now known throughout the province and beyond due to her role as chief medical officer of health for Newfoundland and Labrador. She is a provincial leader ensuring the well-being of Newfoundland and Labradoreans during this ongoing pandemic.

Dr. Fitzgerald generates positive comments as a health care provider in the tremendous job she is doing ensuring citizens clearly understand the importance of this evolving situation.

She is persistent in transmitting the information to the public and shows outstanding leadership abilities and interdisciplinary teamwork.

Her high standard of professionalism is evident in all that she does to educate and empower informed decisions about COVID-19. We are extremely fortunate to live in a province that can control this unusual situation. This is due to the work Dr. Fitzgerald and her team does every day to keep our communities safe by providing strategic advice on emerging topics.

We are also privileged to be represented by Dr. Fitzgerald’s evidence-based knowledge and skills with the media. We appreciate her collaborative work and engagement.

Through it all, Dr. Fitzgerald continuously focuses her dedication on the well-being of the people in her province while managing her personal and professional life effectively in these challenging times.

***Congratulations, Dr. Janice Fitzgerald!***

Dr. Janice Fitzgerald humbly accepted her award.

1. **Resolutions** – none received
2. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm

Respectively submitted,

Shelley Sullivan, MD, CCFP

Honorary Secretary

NL CFP

Debbie Rideout

Administrator

NL CFP