

Director of External Engagement 2021-2022 Summary Report

Over the last year, the DEE position has continued to flourish. At the present time, the NLCFP has a close relationship with the following organizations/groups: the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association (NLMA), the Family Practice Renewal Program (including the Family Practice Renewal Committee and the Family Practice Networks), Quality of Care NL/Choosing Wisely NL (QCNL), and MUN Family Medicine. We are also maintaining connections with key members of the Health Accord for Newfoundland and Labrador and, as a result, we now have the direct ear of both the Minister of Health and the Premier on a regular basis. Additionally, we are growing our partnerships with other health professional organizations and provincial health programs.

In late 2020, I was asked to sit on the NL Health Accord's Community Care Committee. The mandate of that committee was to help develop a vision for community and primary care in our province. During the Health Accord development process, the NLCFP has provided input and feedback in a variety of ways, including directly to the Task Force members, through the Community Care Committee, through our partnership with the NLMA, and through our involvement with QCNL. In February 2022, Health Accord NL submitted the "Report: Our Province. Our Health. Our Future. A 10-Year Health Transformation." Then, in June 2022, the companion Report entitled "Our Province. Our Health. Our Future. A 10-Year Health Transformation: The Blueprint." was released. To say that this was a massive undertaking would be a huge understatement. Throughout the process, the voice of NL Family Physicians was ever-present not only through me, but also via the incredible Dr. Shanda Slipp and the many other Family Physicians who sat on the Task Force. While there are aspects of the final reports that are contentious and may inspire more questions than answers, one cannot deny that reimagining an entire healthcare system from the ground up was a formidable task, and one with which I am proud the NLCFP was involved.

One of the most significant successes this year came as a direct result of our role within the Health Accord Task Force: the NLCFP was invited to sit at "the Premier's Table on Community Care." This monthly meeting gathers many organizations including the NLMA, CPSNL, MUNMED, and the RHAs, who meet together with the Premier, the Minister of Health, the Deputy Minister for Health Transformation, and the Assistant Deputy Minister of Health Professional Recruitment and Retention. The NLCFP is honored to have been asked to join this group, and I am working hard to ensure that Family Medicine has a formidable presence at the table. It is clear that the NLCFP continues to be viewed as a strong, representative voice for NL Family Physicians.

Another robust Family Medicine presence is the Assistant Deputy Minister of Health Professional Recruitment and Retention, Dr. Megan Hayes. This position is a direct result of meetings that the NLCFP had with the Premier in late 2021, and I could not be happier to see Dr. Hayes in the role. As a result, the NLCFP now has a strong connection within the Department of Health.

The NLCFP's relationship with its partner organizations continues to be strong. I meet regularly with the NLMA to discuss common issues and messaging. Joint statements continue to be issued from time to time, and we utilize each other's resources and member reach. I continue to sit on the QCNL Oversight Committee, providing input into the direction of the organization's projects. My work in helping QCNL improve its direct engagement with Family Physicians across the province is ongoing. Similarly, the NLCFP continues to be a member of the Family Practice Renewal Committee, and I am in close contact with the Family Practice Networks, meeting monthly with the Executive Directors.

Other DEE activities over the last year included fostering a new relationship with the Canadian Family Practice Nurses Association, with a focus on our similar goals for primary care reform. In April, I presented at the CFPC Atlantic PMH Symposium in PEI, speaking about the Family Practice Renewal Program, the Health Accord, and the NLCFP's involvement with these and other organizations. I also played an active role on the CFPC CEO/ED Search Committee, providing a "small Chapter" perspective. Finally, there were numerous media interviews to continue amplifying the voice of Family Physicians in Newfoundland & Labrador.

I want to finish by acknowledging how difficult this past year has been for Family Medicine. We are all struggling with the weight of an entire health care system on our backs, and I want to acknowledge the frustration, sadness, anger, despair, hopelessness, outrage, and exhaustion of my colleagues. I also want to acknowledge their perseverance, courage, strength, ingenuity, adaptability, and commitment in continuing to provide the best possible care to their patients and their communities.

As always, if you have any questions about the DEE position, or my role with any committees or organizations, please email me anytime (engagement@nlcfp.ca). Likewise, if there is an organization with which you feel the NLCFP should be more engaged, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted by,



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