



Thank you, for all that you do.



President's Report – College of Family Physicians PEI Chapter

Sept 2020

Despite the COVID pandemic turning our work and home life upside down we continue to work towards our goals that we had set out in our strategic plan developed in 2018.

Goal 1: Promote the unique role of the Family Physician to the public

The Atlantic provinces are working together to extend the Nova Scotia “**We Specialize in You**” campaign. This a great opportunity to work together and communicate the role of the Family Physician further in our online community. We plan to launch PEI’s website and social media campaign this fall.

We have begun the process of the **legal protection of the term “family medicine”**. Currently there is a Registered Health Professions Act for some health professions. Physicians are not currently under this act, however if they are making changes to legislation, we discussed that CFPC would be willing to help to include the term “family medicine” for protection. We are working with the Dept of Health’s inhouse lawyer (Nichola Hewitt) on draft legislation.

Goal 2 - Promote the unique role of the family physician to system stakeholders

In January 2020, Dr. Heather Austin, Heather Mullen and myself met with Hon. James Alyward, Deputy Minister Mark Spidel, Assistant Deputy Minister Deborah Bradley, and Director, Health Services Dr. Kathy McNally. We discussed the new **Patients' Medical Neighborhood**. Deborah Bradley shared that they are starting a Primary Care Steering Group, and PEI CFPC will have a seat on that group.

A provincial **Electronic Medical Records (EMR)** program is in development. The EMR goal is to have a community-based physicians using electronic medical records in the near future. The Dept. of Health and Wellness has put aside 8M in the capital budget for this project. I am the EMR physician advisor and Heather Mullen represents PEICFP on the EMR Program Planning committee for the province.

Dr. Heather Austin is representing PEICFPC at **the Primary Care Steering Group** which will be leading primary care reform in PEI starting this fall.

On July 23, 2020, PEICFP attended a meeting with leader of the official opposition and the health shadow critic. Topics included: Education on the role and vision of PEI CFPC. Our role in Primary care planning (virtual care, rural hubs, community health centers), EMR selection process and EMR program development, **Patients' Medical Home and Patients' Medical Neighborhood.**

We successfully **negotiated a policy change with the College of Physicians and Surgeons** effective Sept 1, 2020. The new policy on Referrals and Consultations for Patients includes "*The Consulting Physician*: must schedule the appointment directly with the patient; must advise the patient directly of any specific requirements prior to the appointment; must communicate expectations directly with the patient about office procedures and policies."

It is no longer acceptable for the Consultant to direct the Referring Physician to do these tasks.

Goal 3: Explore ways how every Islander has a link to a Family Physician

As co-chair of the **virtual care taskforce**, I was able to help facilitate the initiation of virtual care being available to patients of family physicians and specialists beginning early on in the pandemic. This enabled family physicians to continue to care for their patients during the self-isolation requirements and quarantine. Virtual care also opened the door for unaffiliated patients on PEI to have access to a virtual family physician. Invitations to this program went out to patient's currently on the registry. Currently there are 7 physicians on PEI signed up to provide virtual care to unaffiliated patients.

Goal 4: Enhance opportunities to engage Family Physicians in research and education on PEI

Unfortunately, due to COVID precautions our **Family Medicine Conference (FMC)**, usually held in June each year at the Delta, had to be postponed. We were planning a full day of CME for family physicians. We were also planning to **support resident research** by having a resident poster session during breaks and lunch.

We were also planning to hold a second **Practicing Wisely** session in Spring 2020 as our first Practicing Wisely session held in Fall 2019 was a success. We are currently hoping to hold a second Practicing Wisely session in Spring 2021. We will have two facilitators trained on PEI to hold the session.

In addition, the **Atlantic Leadership CPD Joule course** is being offered – we have 35 seats to be shared between the four provinces. This is funded by a grant from CFPC which Atlantic applied for together.

Goal 5: Develop further ways to communicate and engage our members.

We continue to support our members with regular communication, attending meetings on behalf of the College with stakeholders, and holding our annual FMC in June. Dr. Scales continues to develop his mentorship program in conjunction with his role as our First Five Years board member.

Throughout the pandemic, Dr. Heather Austin and myself have had regular communications with the National CFPC board, CEO and other Chapter Elected Leaders to stay up to date on COVID response in other provinces.

Respectively submitted by Dr. Kristy Newson CCFP (SEM), FCFP