



PEI College of Family Physicians
Annual Meeting of Members
May 10, 2024

President's report

Dear Colleagues of the PEI College of Family Physicians,

It is my pleasure to provide you with the President's report for PEICFP Annual Meeting of Members on May 10, 2024, at the Delta Prince Edward Hotel in Charlottetown, PEI.

The PEICFP has welcomed three new board members since our last AMM: Dr Trina Stewart as President-elect, Dr Sina Sedighi as Resident Representative, and Jessica Smith CPA as Treasurer. We are grateful for the experience that Trina brings as a longstanding board member with the PEICFP, community Family Physician, former MSPEI President, and Physician Advisor for the PEI Primary Care Renewal project. Sina brings an ever-valuable perspective and balanced enthusiasm as a local Dalhousie Family Medicine Resident. As a Certified Professional Accountant, Jessica brings financial expertise as well as her viewpoint as our first non-physician member of the board. I hope that you will join me in welcoming these three new board members.

Advocacy for Family Medicine has remained the priority area of investment for the PEICFP over the past year. The Physician Service Agreement (formerly Master Agreement) represents the single biggest opportunity to effect positive change for family physicians in coming years. As part of this advocacy work, we have met with all negotiation partners. We have been fortunate to hear from all parties that Family Medicine needs to be the priority area for investment, and, as a non-negotiating stakeholder, our Chapter has been well positioned with members serving in new advisory roles with key negotiation parties. We eagerly await to hear the details of the tentative agreement.

Over the past year, our Chapter has experienced and taken steps to address its financial uncertainty. As a small chapter with limited revenue from member dues, annual monetary transfer payments from CFPC have been necessary to support core operations. As the CFPC has sought to address national budgetary deficits, this has led to uncertainty about their ability to sustain transfer payments. We have coordinated with the CFPC on this issue, and I am pleased to share that a bridging policy statement has been announced that will ensure we may continue to apply for transfer payments until the national organizational governance review is completed and

financial structuring recommendations are implemented. I thank the leadership team at the CFPC for this ongoing investment as we work together to serve our mutual membership in PEI.

Below, I have highlighted additional key Chapter activities and updates from the past year:

Advocacy

- Federal Health Minister – Hon. Mark Holland – Oct 2023 – Discussed physician burnout and current state of family medicine in PEI. Highlighted team-based care via Patient Medical Homes as future of family medicine.
- PEI Health Minister – Hon. Mark McLane, Deputy Minister Lisa Thibeau, Assistant Deputy Minister Deborah Bradley, CMO Dr Kathie McNally, CFPC President Dr Christie Newton – Sep 2023 – Discussed challenges for family physicians in PEI and shared three areas for investment: 1) Team-based care / Patient Medical Home, 2) Reducing administrative burden, 3) family physician remuneration.
- Health PEI – CMO Dr Kathie McNally, Provincial Medical Director of Family Medicine & Focused Practice, Dr Laura O'Connor, Executive Director Medical Affairs Lauren Weyman Kelly – With specific examples from PEI FM leaders, advocated on principles of value, support, and flexibility for family physicians as key areas for investment in the next Physician Services Agreement as well as in health system policy.
- MSPEI – CEO Lea Bryden, Director of Physician Compensation and Practice Support Sam Holmes - August 2023- With specific examples from PEI FM leaders, advocated on principles of value, support, and flexibility for family physicians as key areas for investment in the next Physician Services Agreement.
- CFPC CEO and Board – June and Nov 2023 – Highlighted important work of the Chapter for family physicians on PEI and the challenges for the future including financial insecurity.
- CFP Provincial Elected Leaders – June and Nov 2023 – Highlighted important work of the Chapter for family physicians in PEI and the challenges for the future including financial insecurity. Received offers of support, including to share work on advocacy and policy initiatives.
- Patient Medical Home
 - o Advocated with key stakeholders on role of Patient Medical Home in the future of Family Medicine in PEI and need for further investment and development.
 - o Participated in the CFPC Patient Medical Home Symposium Jan 2024 (organized by Heather Mullen). Event was attended by health administrative and government leaders from across the Atlantic Provinces. Dr Trina Stewart gave a presentation at

the event. Received excellent feedback on PEI's leadership role in supporting and implementing Patient Medical Home model.

- In December of 2023, the PEI government signed a bilateral agreement with the federal government to improve health care over three years. Of the \$94 million committed, over \$56 million is dedicated to Primary care through investment in Patient Medical Homes, Medical Neighborhoods, and Primary Care Access Clinics.
- The 2024-2025 Provincial Budget saw an additional \$10.5 million committed towards Patient Medical Homes, bringing the total yearly allocation to \$25.8 million.

- **Health Legislation/Policy**

- Health Innovation Cluster - update received on provincial health initiatives on Pharmacy Plus, Virtual Hallway, Skip the Waiting Room, as well as future initiatives in pipeline such as Physician assistants, Physician associates, Physiotherapist ordering of X-rays, assistive scribe technologies, and more.
- Feedback provided to the Department of Health on legislative changes regarding prescription expiry. Coordinated with MSPEI and CPSPEI on requesting changes to enhance patient safety and provider comfort. Have received confirmation that these measures will be included in this legislation.
- Engaged to provide feedback on legislative changes to allow the creation and regulation of Clinical Assistants on PEI.
- Work underway on Patient Information Portal project. Will be advocating for clarity on scope of project, physician education on medico-legal considerations, as well as a practical roll-out that minimizes undue patient stress and without adding significantly to physician administrative burden.

- **Physician Services Agreement Negotiations** – PEI CFP President invited to serve advisory role for Health PEI for the Physician Services Agreement negotiations. Dr Trina Stewart, PEI CFP President-Elect, serving on advisory caucus with MSPEI on longitudinal Family medicine.

- **UPEI/MUN Medical School** – Member of the Community Engagement & External Relations Sub-Committee – Advocating through this role for increased engagement and transparency with Island physicians. Advising on current systemic limitations.

- **Atlantic Leaders Summit**- Jan 2024, Coordinated meeting with other Atlantic CFP Provincial Chapter leaders. Discussed key regional issues pertaining to family medicine and shared details on specific provincial initiatives.

Education and Engagement

- Family Medicine Conference (FMC) - June 2023 - 70 registrants were joined by special guests P.E.I. Health Minister Hon. Mark McLane, CFPC President Dr. Christie Newton, and CFPC Executive Director and CEO Dr. Lawrence Loh. Excellent feedback was provided by those in attendance, and overall rating of 4.8/5.0.
- CME/EMR - Sep 2023 - Meeting with Dr Nicole Stockley, NFLD, and Dr Kristy Newson on using CME to drive creation and utilization of clinical tools in EMR.
- CFPC Family Medicine Forum 2023 – PEI Chapter booth and co-hosted Atlantic Luncheon including PEI Family Physicians in attendance at the event.
- CME and Social - “The Prevalence of Anxiety and Depression Amongst PEI Farmers” Dr. Meghan Cameron - Oct 2023 – Very well received with over 30 family physicians as well as Minister of Agriculture Hon Bloyce Thompson in attendance. Excellent feedback received from those in attendance with interest in holding similar events around the province.
- Resident Transition to Practice lecture – Jan 2024.

Thank you to each of you for improving the lives of Islanders and each other. I look forward to our continued work together.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Steve Scales
President, PEI College of Family Physicians