



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

**Dr. Susan MacDonald 96<sup>th</sup> President of NLMA**

**For immediate release – June 7, 2021**

**St. John's, NL** – Dr. Susan MacDonald is the new President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association (NLMA). Dr. MacDonald was installed as the NLMA's 96<sup>th</sup> President, following its Annual General Meeting on June 5, 2021.

Dr. MacDonald has been practising palliative medicine in St. John's for more than 20 years. She is a teacher, leader and clinician renowned for her progressive dedication to providing care for the terminally ill. She has made it her life's work and purpose to garner respect, understanding and compassion for the dying. *(Full bio linked below)*

During the annual meeting, she told delegates that her first priority as president will be concluding the NLMA's negotiations with government as quickly as possible.

"These negotiations are occurring at a critical time. Our health system needs fundamental reforms," said Dr. MacDonald.

"If accepted at the negotiations table, our proposals will help address issues with physician recruitment and retention. They will also lead to systemic improvements and better health outcomes, which will ultimately lead to a more sustainable health system."

Dr. MacDonald told delegates that there are indicators that major change is on the horizon within the province's health care system following the release of the Economic Recovery Report and the provincial Budget in May. She said that this change brings with it a tremendous opportunity to make the kinds of necessary health system reforms.

"We are fortunate to have the Health Accord process underway, which will creatively deconstruct and rebuild our health care system. The NLMA is represented with a seat on the Health Accord Task Force, and there are many physicians on its 6 sub-committees," said Dr. MacDonald.

"As we enter this era of transformation, we want physicians to be at the forefront of health policy decisions so that those decisions are made in the best interests of our patients. We must ensure that any decisions to reduce health care costs are based on appropriate evidence and result in sustainable solutions to make our health care system stronger and more efficient. I strongly believe that when we keep the patient as our main priority, we can pioneer sustainable solutions that suit both our patients' needs and our own."

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**BACKGROUND:** [Dr. Susan MacDonald Bio](#)

**PHOTO:** [Dr. Susan MacDonald](#)

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