



July 15th, 2019

Honorable Randy Delorey
Minister, Department of Health and Wellness
P.O. Box 488
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2R8

Dear Minister Delorey:

Attracting new physicians to the Nova Scotia health care system and retaining those currently practicing in Nova Scotia requires a serious assessment of the salary scales for medical professionals in Nova Scotia. The Yarmouth County Doctor Recruitment and Retention Committee strongly urges the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness to review the salary structures for physicians and make efforts to establish remuneration that is more competitive with other provinces.

The Municipalities of the District of Argyle, the District of Yarmouth, the District of Barrington and the Town of Yarmouth are committed to recruiting and retaining health care professionals in Southwest Nova Scotia. These municipal units have partnered to form the Yarmouth County Doctor Recruitment and Retention Committee.

As we have met with physicians in this area, several have expressed the requirement for increased pay scales as well as incentives to practice rurally in Nova Scotia. They have indicated they are receiving better proposals from other provinces. They have also expressed the sentiment that the many amenities, including the airport in HRM, make setting up a practice there much more attractive, and the only way to sustain services in rural Nova Scotia is to offer increased financial incentives to practice rurally. The area of most desperate need is Primary Care and improving compensation for office-based family medicine needs to be a top priority.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,

Patti Durkee, Chair
Yarmouth County Doctor Recruitment and Retention Committee

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