



NSHA holds annual general meeting in Truro

At our AGM in July, NSHA celebrated the spirit of caring, commitment to research and innovation, and desire to create a healthier future that drives our 30,000 plus employees, physicians, learners and volunteers.

The meeting opened with this video story about our partnership with Sipekne'katik First Nation to support an Enhanced Home Visitor Program. It also featured a poster exhibit showcasing innovative approaches to care and service delivery.

Our 2018-19 annual report – [Quality through Caring](#) shines a light on some of the many ways our people and partners are translating their care for others into action to support healthier people and communities. We invite you to review the report at the link below.

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Healthier Together 2019-22: NSHA launches new strategic plan at annual general meeting



We introduced our renewed strategic plan, *Healthier Together 2019-22* at our AGM in July after a wide-reaching engagement process conducted earlier this year.

In the new plan, you will see values statements that more clearly define our actions and decisions. We have also reformulated our strategic directions to establish three distinct “pillars” – Our Services, Our People, and Our Communities. These restated directions will help us focus the organization’s efforts over the coming years as we work to achieve our vision of Healthy people, healthy communities — for generations.

We look forward to our ongoing work with you over the coming months to continue to integrate our renewed mission, vision and values.

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NSHA welcomes new VP and Chief, zone operations



NSHA is pleased to welcome Darlene Mackinnon as the Vice President and Chief, Zone Operations. In this role, she will provide focused attention to zone and site leadership to strengthen decision-making and provide role clarity between local, zone and executive leadership, as well as between zone leadership and provincial program leadership.

Darlene comes to us from British Columbia (B.C) where she was the Executive Director of Royal Columbian Hospital, part of Fraser Health Authority . She also served as the Executive Director for the health authority's Surgical and Cardiac Networks and the executive clinical lead for the hospital's redevelopment project -the largest government capital health care project in B.C.

Darlene has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Dalhousie University and a Master of Health Administration from the University of British Columbia.

Enhancing support for patients and families during end-of-life care at Yarmouth Regional Hospital



The Yarmouth Regional Hospital will soon have a more welcoming space to support and care for palliative patients and their families.

The Yarmouth County Hospice Society, NSHA, and the Department of Health and Wellness have been working together to enhance support for those requiring end of life care in Yarmouth and the surrounding area.

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Community Health Boards across Nova Scotia call for wellness fund applications



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Research Focus



Making the right match for transplant success

Unless they have a live donor, Atlantic Canadians in need of a new kidney are waiting more than four years for a suitable organ to become available for transplant.

Beyond increasing the pool of living donors, optimizing the match between kidney donors and recipients is key.

“If we optimize donor-recipient matching, we can maximize the longevity of the transplant and minimize the need for repeat transplants,” says Dr. Amanda Vinson, an NSHA nephrologist and leading researcher in donor recipient pairing.

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Protecting aging brains from anesthesia risk

Researchers at NSHA and Dalhousie University have teamed up to take a big-data approach to solving a common problem known as post-operative cognitive decline. This is a sudden drop in cognitive function that can occur in older patients after general anesthesia, particularly if they already have any issues with cognition—such as attention, working memory, processing or planning—or other vital brain functions.

The research team have received funding to support their work in developing measures that will help improve outcomes for older surgical patients.

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Finding a primary care provider - August snapshot

Finding a Primary Care Provider in Nova Scotia - August 2019 Snapshot

104,633

Nova Scotians
have found a family practice since
November 2016

Approximately
6,100 people
found a family doctor or nurse practitioner
each month in the past 12 months

51,980

Nova Scotians
are on the Need a Family Practice Registry,
as of August 1, 2019

This represents
5.6% of the population



Monthly activity

As reported in July 2019
7,172 people
found a family practice

In July 2019
3,455 people
added their names to the registry

Total number of Nova Scotians by area



nova scotia
health authority

NSHA is committed to improving access to primary health care by building and strengthening family practice teams and recruiting family doctors. We report on our efforts monthly. As of this month, more than 100,000 people have found a family doctor or nurse practitioner since NSHA began tracking this information.

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New family medicine residents begin training

The new North Nova Family Medicine Teaching Site in Truro welcomed six residents last month. Two will work in Truro, two in New Glasgow and two in Amherst.

The existing Cape Breton site also welcomed two additional residents. Two more family medicine residents will gain more clinical experience in areas that will improve services in the community - women's health and community hospitalist medicine.

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Seats added at Dalhousie Medical School

Government is adding 16 new seats to Dalhousie University's Medical School.

The new seats will be for Nova Scotians and mean more doctors will be educated in the province. The focus will be on students from three groups: rural communities, Mi'kmaq and other Indigenous peoples, and African Nova Scotians. This will complement the medical school's existing education equity programs.

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Three NS hospitals selected to participate in national baby-friendly collaboration project



Three Nova Scotia hospitals have been selected to participate the National Baby-Friendly Initiative Quality Improvement Collaborative Project.

The project is the first of its kind in maternal newborn care in Canada with just 25 hospitals participating and is part of an effort to increase the number of Baby-Friendly designated hospitals in Canada.

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New registered nurse first assistant roles introduced in Cape Breton as part of hip and knee action plan

Two registered nurses (RNs) from Cape Breton are taking the final step towards becoming registered nurse first assistants (RNFAs) as part of Nova Scotia's multi-year plan for hip and knee replacements.

A small number of RNFAs currently support



other surgical sub-specialties in parts of Nova Scotia, but these are the first recruited to support orthopedic surgery. The need for these roles was identified as a priority by the team at Cape Breton Regional Hospital and could expand to other sites over time.

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Court liaison fights for Indigenous communities



Barry Paul Bernard did not seek out his current position as Aboriginal court liaison for the Nova Scotia Court System and Mi'kmaw Legal Support Network. He actually started out as a communications officer with the court system, but when his colleague passed away, Bernard was tapped to temporarily fill in. Ten years later, he's a veteran court liaison, primarily working at the Wagmatcook First Nation Wellness Court, but also at the courts in Sydney and Port Hawkesbury.

Bernard works with more than 400 clients every year who go through court-mandated wellness programs that aim to reduce harms from drug use and the punitive aspects of the criminal justice system.

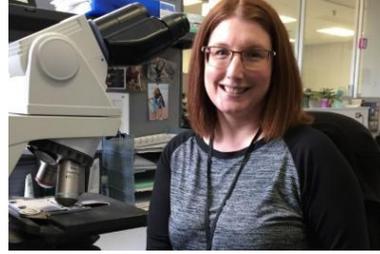
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Our people in profile

All across NSHA, employees, physicians, learners and volunteers perform many different roles and work in many different departments but share a common focus: supporting and delivering high - quality care and service to Nova Scotians. We're shining a light on that work through the Our People in Profile Series. We encourage you meet some of the people who work, learn and volunteer at NSHA by visiting our



website regularly or following us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



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