



Recently I informed the Board of Directors of my intention to retire at the end of this summer.

I am so grateful to have had a fulfilling career in the health system that spans more than 40 years and my time at NSHA has most certainly been a highlight where we have accomplished many things. When I reflect on my time as President and CEO, it has been both exciting and very rewarding.

NSHA is a dynamic organization that does critical work across our province. I want to take this opportunity to thank our many partners including foundations, auxiliaries, community health boards, municipal and provincial governments, educational institutions, business and community-based organizations for your contributions and the important work you do in creating a healthier Nova Scotia.

I will leave here in August with immense pride in having the opportunity to have been on this journey with you and for that, I thank you.

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## Funding announced for mental health project to explore DNA of bipolar disorder



(From L to R): Lindsay Peach, Vice-President, Integrated Health Services , NSHA; Dr. Martin Alda; Dr. Steve Armstrong, President & CEO, Genome Atlantic; Dr. Rob Anna, Vice-President, Public Affairs & Communications, Genome Canada; Dr. Rudolf Uher; Janet Knox, CEO, NSHA; Brian Thompson, CEO, DMRF; Dr. Gail Tomblin Murphy, Vice-President of Research & Innovation, NSHA; and Dr. Colin Dodds, Trustee, Research Nova Scotia Trust. Photo courtesy Genome Atlantic.

A team of Nova Scotia mental health researchers is set to explore the genetic factors that play a role in bipolar disorder. Led by Dr. Martin Alda and Dr. Rudolf Uher, the three-year, \$975,000 research project could lead to new clinical tools to better diagnose and treat this disorder.

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## Renewing our strategic plan together



NSHA's strategic plan, "Healthier Together," is set to expire in 2019 and we are embarking on a strategic plan renewal process. This serves as an opportunity for employees, physicians, volunteers, learners, partners and our communities across the province to be involved in shaping the principles that guide the work we do each and every day in service of Nova Scotians.

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## New Shelburne Family Practice space opens



Members of the community joined the Shelburne Family Practice to celebrate the opening of the new facility.

"Knowing that a modern clinic like this was in the works and was going to be completed soon was a very big part of my decision to move my family to Nova Scotia from Ontario," nurse practitioner Maria Ceschiutti said. "The community of Shelburne has been very supportive of me and my family since we have moved here, and it has been my pleasure to provide care for the residents of this community."

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## Youth mental health outreach expands



More junior high and high school students in Nova Scotia are now able to access mental health support through expanded outreach programs.

Health and Wellness Minister Randy Delorey provided an update on the expansion of the adolescent outreach program (originally called CaperBase). Since the launch of the expansion, more than 4,000 youth have accessed the program in the northern and western zones.

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## Legislative standing committee on health focuses on accreditation at inaugural meeting

President and CEO Janet Knox and other representatives of NSHA attended the inaugural meeting of the standing committee on health to talk about the organization's first province-wide accreditation in 2017.

"We saw this as an excellent opportunity to highlight our progress as a provincial organization and to gain valuable insight as we moved forward." President and CEO Janet Knox.

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## Hospice Halifax scheduled to open in April



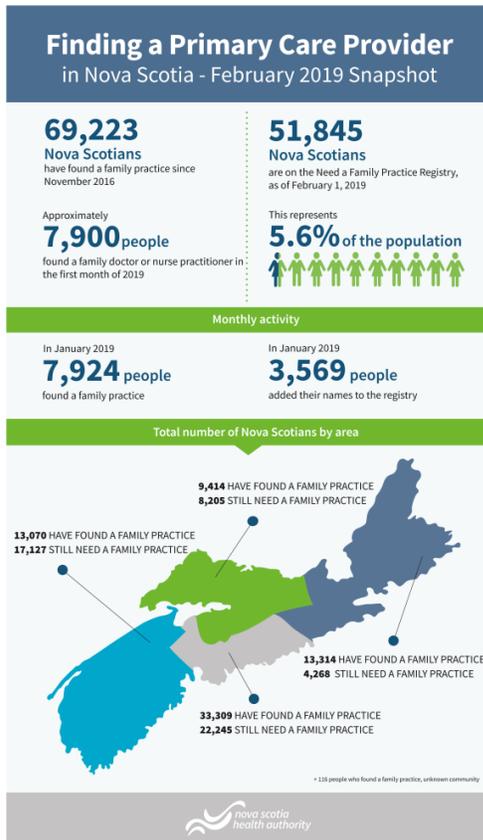
Hospice Halifax announced the eligibility criteria and admission process for a new hospice residence for Nova Scotian patients and families.

Medical director, Dr. Stephanie Connidis said, "The criteria help present a clearer picture: when staying at home is no longer possible, people can consider a new option for end-of-life care."

The hospice residence opens on April 8 at 618 Francklyn Street in Halifax.

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## Finding a primary care provider - February snapshot



Improving access to primary care is a priority for NSHA. We are continuously recruiting for family doctors - more than 130 have been recruited since April 2016 - and we have added over 100 nurse practitioners, family practice nurses and other primary health care professionals to collaborative family practice teams since March 2017. Registry staff are working diligently to assist people on the registry find a family practice.

We report on our efforts monthly. Here is the most recent data on the provincial Need a Family Practice registry.

If you need to be connected with a family practice and have not already registered, please visit <https://needafamilypractice.nshealth.ca/> or call 811 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday to Friday.

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## Is your water well? Chemical testing for well water now available across Nova Scotia



You can't tell whether well water is safe to drink by looking at it, smelling it or tasting it. You need to have it tested.

Nova Scotia Environment recommends that Nova Scotians on well water have it tested for bacteria every six months, and every two years for chemical parameters.

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## Dr. Kevin Orrell joins CBRM health care redevelopment leadership team



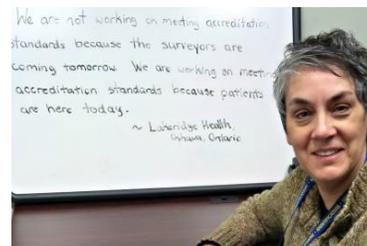
Cape Breton orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Kevin Orrell has been named senior medical director for the CBRM Health Care Redevelopment Project.

He joins a local leadership team that will help to reshape health care delivery in Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM).

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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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