

For Immediate Release
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NL Centre for Health Information Holds 2015/2016 Annual General Meeting

St. John's, NL - The Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information (the Centre) held its annual general meeting at the Ramada Inn in St. John's today. Ray Dillon, Board Chair, and Steve Clark, Interim President and CEO, highlighted the Centre's accomplishments from the past year.

"Fiscal year 2015/2016 was a great year for the Centre. Based on the strides forward for HEALTHe NL, the provincial electronic health record, the Centre anticipates our province will have one of the most comprehensive electronic health records in the country within the next two years. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend our thanks and appreciation to the team, and our health system partners for the success achieved in 2015/2016."

– *Ray Dillon, Board Chair, Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information*

The Centre's 2014-2017 business plan outlines priorities across three strategic areas: Provincial Health Information Systems, Quality Health Information, and Stakeholder Engagement. Some of the Centre's successes in 2015/2016 that supported these strategic areas included:

Provincial Health Information Systems

- In 2015/2016, the Centre continued to integrate Central Health and Western Health data into HEALTHe NL. As part of the Pharmacy Network deployment plan, the Centre enabled community pharmacies to access lab results and clinical reports. As of March 31, 2016, over 1,500 health clinicians or authorized providers have created accounts within HEALTHe NL.
- In 2015/2016, the Centre added 24 pharmacies to the Pharmacy Network to bring the total number of connected pharmacies to 92 (46 per cent) - the most in recent history. The NL Pharmacy Board made an announcement in 2015 that required all pharmacies to connect to HEALTHe NL through the Pharmacy Network by January 2017 as part of the new *Standards of Pharmacy Operation for Community Pharmacies*. This requirement has meant a significant increase in the number of pharmacies connected.
- The Centre in partnership with the Provincial Government and the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association signed the Memorandum of Understanding for eDOCSNL, the province's electronic medical record (EMR). An EMR digitizes patient information in a physician's clinic that has been traditionally stored and recorded in paper files.

Quality Health Information

- The Centre continued to support and collaborate on research initiatives with various research partners. The Centre also supported the NL Primary Healthcare Research and Integration to Improve Health System Efficiency (PRIIME) Network. The PRIIME Network is a multidisciplinary team including researchers, clinicians and policymakers that conduct and facilitate research to generate evidence that can be used to effect change in the health system.
- In 2015/2016, redevelopment of the Clinical Database Management System was completed. The new system, funded by the Provincial Government, provided a modern storage and reporting solution for key provincial health datasets such as inpatient, day surgery and rehab information.
- Analytic and evaluation services were provided to support the planning and monitoring of primary health

care services, particularly on the Bonavista Peninsula.

Stakeholder Engagement

- The Centre continued to partner with many health care professional groups to implement EHR educational programs including six Pharmacy Network and HEALTHe NL accredited continuing education sessions in pharmacy practice with the NL Board of Pharmacy.
- The Centre participated in and presented at numerous stakeholder events, activities and conferences that supported the adoption and use of Centre programs and systems including the Pharmacy Association of NL Annual Conference, the Nurse Practitioner Conference, the NL Medical Association Annual General Meeting and the Annual Kids Rock Conference.

“Our organization has successfully focused on the programs, products, and services that will best serve the health care system and our partners. We continue to support informed decision-making across the health care system by providing quality health information when and where it is needed.”

– *Steve Clark, Interim President and CEO, Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information.*

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About the Centre for Health Information

The Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information provides quality information to health professionals, the public, researchers, and health system decision-makers. Through collaboration with the health system, the Centre supports the development of data and technical standards, maintains key health databases, prepares and distributes health reports, and supports and carries out applied health research, evaluations, and analytics. The Centre’s work also includes the development and implementation of a confidential and secure provincial electronic health record and other provincial health information systems.

For more information contact:

Jennifer Lawlor, Director of Communications

Tel: (709)752-6111 / (709)631-0995

jennifer.lawlor@nlchi.nl.ca